The entry level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program is the longest-standing occupational therapy program in Iowa. The curriculum emphasizes occupational justice and participation for people of all ages and abilities. Students develop an advanced area of knowledge concluding in a capstone project and experience. The program requires three years of coursework including fieldwork and internships.

OTD students learn in interactive, state-of-the-art labs in the Center for Health Sciences Education (CHSE) along with students in other professional programs within the university. The OTD program also offers Assistive Technology Outreach Services at no cost to clients and health care professionals through Jim’s Place, a home demonstration center highlighting innovative, independent living solutions.

**Mission Statement** The St. Ambrose University OTD program develops ethical, innovative and sensitive health professionals engaged in life-long learning who serve as socially responsive individuals dedicated to optimizing the occupational participation of others in a diverse and global society.

**Accreditation** The entry-level doctoral program has applied for accreditation and been granted candidacy status by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. Contact ACOTE at 301/652-AOTA, online at www.acoteonline.org. Once accreditation has been obtained, graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). Most states also require licensure to practice based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

**Admission Deadlines** Applications are accepted annually upon the opening of the OTCAS cycle (usually in July) through December 1 each year or until the class is filled.

**Early Admissions Decision:** Application Deadline Sept. 15
Up to 15 applicants may be accepted in an early interview/decision process for the incoming OTD class. Applicants must submit a complete and qualified application and have a minimum 3.4 GPA for prerequisites or be a St. Ambrose alum or degree seeking student.

**General Admissions Decision:** Application Deadline Dec. 1
Applicants submitting complete and qualified applications by Dec. 1, and any applicants who submitted an application for an early admissions decision but are not yet accepted, can qualify for an interview if they meet minimum admissions requirements.

**Admission Prerequisites** Eight pre-requisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or higher, for a combined pre-requisite GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale). Pre-requisite grades must be available at the time of application deadline.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology I with lab (4 cr)</td>
<td>BIOL 230</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology II with lab (4 cr)</td>
<td>BIOL 232</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Terminology (course/competency 1 cr)</td>
<td>HS 250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifespan (3 cr)</td>
<td>PSYC 212</td>
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<td>Research Methods (3 cr)</td>
<td>PSYC 215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics (3 cr)</td>
<td>STAT 213</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science (3 cr)</td>
<td>.300 level or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics or Bio-Medical Ethics (3 cr)</td>
<td>PHIL 207/310</td>
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WWW.SAU.EDU/OTD
## Admission Process

> All applicants must have earned a baccalaureate degree by June 1 before beginning OTD coursework.
> Submit a completed OTCAS application to the St. Ambrose OTD program through the OTCAS website, www.otcas.org. Application fee is $140 for the first application, and $60 for each additional program. Application process assistance is available from Customer Service at otcasinfo@otcas.org. The OTCAS application includes:
> - A personal statement.
> - Three letters of reference. One reference letter must be from an OT where observation hours were completed.
> - Official score from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).
> - Submit documentation on official letterhead or by direct email from a registered OT, of 50 hours of OT volunteer experience completed within the past five years, in at least two different OT settings to the OT office. Applicants may receive some credit from employment in an occupational therapy setting with approval from the OTD program.
> Prospective students may be selected for professional interviews that focus on academic, personal and professional preparedness for graduate studies. During the interview, selected applicants will be required to discuss the personal statement they submitted.
> Students will be notified of their admission status in writing and must submit an acceptance confirmation and a $200 acceptance fee.

## Curriculum

### Year One: Fall Semester
- OTD 515: Occupational Justice and Foundations of OT .............. 3
- OTD 520: OT Process: Analyzing Occupations for Indiv. and Groups, 3
- OTD 525: Assessment ............................................. 3
- OTD 530: Neuroscience for Occupational Therapy .................. 3
- OTD 540: Analysis of Movement in Occupational Performance .... 3

### Year One: Spring Semester
- OTD 550: Interventions IA .......................................... 5
- OTD 551: Interventions IB .......................................... 5
- OTD 555: Critical Inquiry I ......................................... 3
- OTD 560: Fieldwork Level IA ...................................... 3

### Year One: Summer Term
- OTD 575: Research Methods ....................................... 3
- OTD 580: Leadership and Management in OT Practice ............ 3

### Year Two: Fall Semester
- OTD 600: Interventions IIA ........................................ 5
- OTD 601: Interventions IIB ........................................ 5
- OTD 605: Critical Inquiry II ....................................... 3
- OTD 625: Scholarship I ............................................. 2
- OTD 630: Fieldwork Level IB .................................... 3

### Year Two: Spring Semester
- OTD 650: Interventions III ......................................... 4
- OTD 651: Interventions IIII ....................................... 4
- OTD 655: Critical Inquiry III .................................... 3
- OTD 660: Fieldwork Level IC ..................................... 3
- OTD 675: Scholarship II ........................................... 2

### Year Two: Summer Term
- OTD 705: Doctoral Project Proposal ................................ 3
- OTD 725: Scholarship III (optional) .............................. 2
- OTD 726: Special Topics (optional) .............................. 1–3

### Year Three: Fall Semester
- OTD 730: Fieldwork Level II ..................................... 6
- OTD 735: Fieldwork Level II ..................................... 6

### Year Three: Spring Semester
- OTD 750: Doctoral Project ......................................... 3
- OTD 800: Experiential Component ................................. 8

## Doctoral Project

Students emerge from the OTD program with a strong professional identity and advanced knowledge linking theory to practice in one of the following areas: practice, research and scholarship, service, administration, leadership, advocacy, education or theory development. Students develop an individualized path of study in a focused area of interest that includes exploration of literature and completion of research concluding with a project that has potential to inform the profession and practice in a way that supports occupational participation. This path of individualized study will also result in the development of opportunities for the doctoral experiential component where students will be able to put elements of their project into action.

## Field Experience/Experiential Component

Students complete a variety of field experiences while enrolled in OTD coursework, including 24 weeks of full-time field experience and a 16 week experiential component. Students are responsible for their own transportation, travel, housing and specific health or compliance related costs, and continue to pay tuition while completing their field experiences.

## Tuition Plan/Financial Assistance

OTD students are covered by the One Price Tuition Plan, which makes financial planning easier by ensuring tuition costs remain one rate throughout the normal course of full-time graduate study. Most course fees and some other miscellaneous costs incurred by OTD students are included. Costs for textbooks, fieldwork experiences, room and board and graduation are not included. Contact the OTD program for tuition rate and details. A limited amount of graduate financial aid is available. The Financial Aid Office can provide information on graduate studies loans.

## For Further Information

Lynn Kilburg, DHSc, MBA, OTR/L, Director ............... 563/333-6277
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