

UNC-CHAPEL HILL MSOT PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS (July 2024)

The Occupational Therapist Centralized Application System (**OTCAS**) allows you to apply to multiple programs from one online platform. OTCAS will collect the following information on all applicants to all programs:

OTCAS Personal Information	OTCAS Academic History	OTCAS Supporting Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biographic Information• Contact Information• Citizenship Information• Other Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High School attended• Colleges attended• Transcript Entry• Professional Transcript Entry Service• OTCAS Course Subjects• Standardized Tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation (References)• Observation Hours• Experiences• Achievements• Licenses and Certifications

The “Supporting Information” section also includes a general **Personal Statement** essay replying to the prompt:

Explain why you selected occupational therapy as a career and how an Occupational Therapy degree relates to your immediate and long-term professional goals. Describe how your personal, educational, and professional background will help you achieve your goals.

References are included here, though the subsection is called “Evaluation.” Applicants provide contact information for references, and references are contacted to complete a checklist of applicant qualities and upload a letter of recommendation.

PROGRAM MATERIALS

Each OT program in OTCAS then has a section in which they can request additional information and materials. **For the MSOT program at UNC-Chapel Hill, this will include the following:**

Prerequisites

- Identification of courses taken for 7 academic prerequisites. For more information about these prerequisites, please see the “Prerequisites” page of our website (<https://www.med.unc.edu/healthsciences/ocsci/prospectivestudents/programs/prerequisites/>).

Short-Answer Questions

Instructions:

- There is a 1000-character limit (including spaces) on your responses, so conciseness and clarity are important.

Questions:

1. Occupational therapy is a field in which practitioners often work with people who have backgrounds and identities different from themselves. Please reflect on your experiences with people different from yourself in one or more ways. Give a brief overview of these experiences, and then describe at least one important thing you have learned, giving a specific example of how you learned it.
2. Think about your experiences working as a part of a group or team to get something done. Reflect on your strengths and challenges working with that group or team. Include at least one clear example of a strength and a challenge.
3. Think about your work, school, home, and community experiences over the past 5 years. Describe a challenge or problem you encountered and how you solved it. Include people and/or factors that supported you and that created barriers for you. Give at least one clear example of a support and of a barrier.
4. Please talk briefly about why you have chosen to apply to the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Documents

- Resume' or CV: Please upload a resume' or CV of no more than two pages. Paid or ongoing volunteer work in an OT setting may be included, but you do not need to include your OT observation/shadowing experiences on this document as they will be uploaded separately.
- Essay: Upload a reflective essay addressing the course taken for the Occupation prerequisite. Include: 1) the challenges of learning a new occupation, 2) how the method of instruction helped or hindered learning, 3) the influence of other learners, and 4) how you felt about the outcome you created, and 5) how this experience expanded your understanding of occupation, humans as occupational beings, and/or occupation as a key to wellness. 200 word minimum, 400 word maximum.
- Other Experience with OT: Please complete the observation hours section of the OTCAS application. If you participated in OT conference sessions, workshops, webinars or similar learning experiences specific to OT and wish to report them, please upload a chart in this section. The chart should include the date of the learning experience, location, title, number of hours, and name of the presenter. This is NOT a required document.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Prospective students applying to the MSOT program must apply to and be accepted by both the UNC Graduate School and the MSOT program itself.

- Therefore, the UNC Graduate School will contact all applicants AFTER they have submitted their OTCAS Application.
- Do not start a separate application to the Graduate School.
- Please be on the lookout for an email from the UNC Graduate School after your OTCAS submission – this email will provide instructions for the Graduate School application.
- Applicants must pay the UNC Graduate School application fee (\$95) as well as the OTCAS fee (\$150 for the first program and \$65 for each additional program).

Questions?

There is detailed information **about OTCAS** in the Applicant Help Center

(https://help.liaisonedu.com/OTCAS_Applicant_Help_Center), so answers to all questions related to the application system should be sought there.

If you have questions **about the UNC MSOT program** or application requirements specifically, please review the information provided on our website (<https://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/ocsci>) and then contact osinfo@med.unc.edu if you cannot find the answer.