

St. Ambrose University began offering entry-level occupational therapy education in 1989, and the Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program is the first accredited entry-level doctoral program in Iowa. The curriculum emphasizes occupational justice and participation in occupation for people of all ages and abilities. Students learn in an interactive, innovative hybrid delivery model with two years of online and campus courses. Students participate in on-campus courses at St. Ambrose University in Davenport or at Loras College in Dubuque. The third year of the program occurs at a variety of field site placements. The OTD program also offers 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 is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E, Bethesda, MD 20814. Contact ACOTE at 301-652-AOTA, online at www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the program 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). All states also require licensure to practice and licensure is usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

CURRICULUM The OTD curriculum is 3 years in length. The first semester provides students with a strong professional foundation as they learn about the domain and process of occupational therapy and the science of the human body.



FIRST-YEAR SAU STUDENTS Incoming first year students at St. Ambrose or Loras who intend to pursue an OTD may request automatic, conditional admission into the OTD program if they meet the high school requirements listed below. Students may also request automatic, conditional admission during their first-year at SAU and Loras if they meet the first year student requirements listed below.

High School Admission Requirements

- Earn an unweighted high school GPA of 3.2 or higher
- Complete 20 hours of observation with an OT in at least 2 settings
- Prepare a personal statement describing interest in OT
- Submit all required materials by March 1

First Year Admission Requirements

- Attain a 3.0 cumulative GPA by the end of second semester of college
- Complete 20 hours of observation with an OT in 2 or more settings
- Prepare a personal statement describing interest in OT
- Submit all required materials by June 1

Once admitted, all students must continue to meet the college requirements listed below to remain qualified for conditional admission. They may begin the OTD program as early as their senior year if all of their prerequisites, general education requirements, and major requirements are complete by the end of their junior year.

College Requirements

- Complete 10+ hours of service each year
- Complete undergraduate coursework with a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
Note: All college coursework, including college courses completed at other institutions, will be included in cumulative GPA calculations.
- Complete all prerequisite coursework with a C or higher and maintain a 3.0 prerequisite GPA
- Actively participate in regular advising visits
- Participation in pre-OT is required as part of ACA acceptance for both high school and first-year students and may be required as part of advising process

ADMISSION FOR STUDENTS APPLYING AS COLLEGE JUNIORS, SENIORS, OR GRADUATES Students may apply as early as their junior year and begin the OTD program in their senior year. To be eligible to begin the program as an undergraduate student with senior status, all general education and major required courses must be complete before beginning the OTD program and all admissions criteria met by the admissions deadline.

Admissions Requirements

- Submit a complete OTCAS application to the St. Ambrose OTD program using the OTCAS website: www.otcas.org. Personal statements, three letters of reference (one from an OT), and documentation of 20 hours of OT observation are submitted through OTCAS. The application fee is \$159 for the first application and \$67 for each additional program. Application process assistance is available from customer service at otcasinfo@otcas.org.

Application 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. There is also a September 15 Early Admissions Decision Deadline. A select number of applicants may be accepted through this early intake (application) 0.5 (t)5.4 (@)0.6 5sing