

UNLV | SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED HEALTH SCIENCES

Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program

Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Doctorate Admission Instructions

The Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) Program immerses students in an intensive 120 credit hour curriculum designed for entry-level competence. The curriculum includes coursework, clinical fieldwork, and a doctoral capstone. The program admits 36 students each summer and spans three consecutive semesters (summer, fall, spring) for each of three years.

Students will be eligible to take the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT®) exam after they successfully complete all program requirements.

The UNLV Entry-Level OTD Program is accredited by the [Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education \(ACOTE®\)](#). For questions about UNLV OTD admissions, contact otd.admissions@unlv.edu.

Eligibility

You may submit an application to the Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program for those who have received:

- A baccalaureate degree in any area of study from a regionally accredited university/college has been conferred on or before UNLV Summer Term I.
- A *minimum* overall and prerequisite undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

The following required prerequisite coursework must be completed:

- Introductory Anthropology or Sociology (3 credits)
- Human Anatomy & Physiology with Labs (8 credits)
 - Completion within the past 3 to 5 years preferred.
- Biology (6 credits)
 - BIOL 189 or higher preferred (starting 2027).
- General or Introductory Psychology (3 credits)
- Abnormal Psychology (3 credits)
- Developmental Psychology (3 credits)
- Statistics (3 credits)

Recommended Courses:

- English Composition I and II (starting 2027).

Prerequisite Courses Must:

- Be completed at an accredited academic institution.
- Be completed within the past 10 years.
- Have a grade of “C” or better (i.e., pass/fail grades are not accepted).
- Not include Advanced Placement coursework. No exceptions.
- Be completed by UNLV Summer Term I start date.
- Be documented in OTCAS and UNLV Grad Rebel Gateway via transcripts

Application Instructions for Admission

Open for submissions July – January for a Summer Term start.

Priority submission deadline is **September of the year prior to admission.**

Final application deadline is **January of the admission year.**

Incomplete or late admissions will not be considered to maintain fairness to all applicants.

Applicants are required to complete all of the following 4 items to be considered:

1. Complete an OTCAS Online Application

- Login at: otcas.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login
- Indicate University of Nevada Las Vegas to receive the application.

2. Complete the UNLV Supplemental Grad College Online Application

- Login at: gradrebelgateway.my.site.com/GradRebelGateway/ERx_Forms__Portal_Login

3. Submit three letters of recommendation

- Submit three letters of recommendation through the OTCAS application portal
 - One must be from a licensed occupational therapist based on direct supervision during completion of the observation hour requirement.
 - The remaining two letters of recommendations may come from any evaluator with direct professional and/or academic familiarity.
 - Personal letters of recommendation from family/friends are not accepted.

4. Complete a minimum of 40 observation / volunteer hours OR complete the UNLV HSC 103: Introduction to Occupational Therapy course.

- Hours must be completed with a licensed occupational therapist or a certified occupational therapy assistant in a minimum of two different practice settings.
 - Verify hours using the UNLV OTD Observation/Volunteer Hour Verification form provided on the [OTD program website](#) and upload into OTCAS.
 - Hours must be unpaid and separate from work duties.
 - Applicants are responsible for securing observation/volunteer placements in accordance with site-specific policies and adhering to professional codes of conduct.
- Applicants also have the opportunity to complete a virtual [ClinEdWeb Intro to OT: 20 Observation Hours module](#) and submit the Certificate of Completion as part of their application.
 - Completing this module will meet 20 of the required 40 observation/volunteer hours.

5. UNLV HSC 103: Introduction to Occupational Therapy with a grade of “C” or better, by the start of the OTD Program.

- Mode: Online
- Credits: 3
- Course offered: Summer Session Term II, Fall, and Spring semesters
- Refer to the [UNLV undergraduate course catalog](#) for more information.
- Refer to the [UNLV website](#) for enrollment information.

The above are minimum requirements for UNLV Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program consideration but do not guarantee admission. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the [National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy \(NBCOT\)](#) certification examination or to attain state licensure as an Occupational Therapist. Please contact NBCOT for more information.