Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT)

Criteria for Admission, Retention, and Graduation

The information presented below is in effect pending successful receipt of program full accreditation status by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). The MOT program at the University of Cincinnati is currently in the candidacy stage of the ACOTE accreditation process. Information for students on the accreditation process is available on the AOTA website.

All aspects of the progression and graduation process for the MOT program operate consistent with the University of Cincinnati's commitment to non-discrimination, cultural diversity, and inclusion. The University does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity and expression in its programs and activities. The university does not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or retaliation on these bases and takes steps to ensure that students, employees, and third parties are not subject to a hostile environment in University programs or activities. Full description and contact information is available on the UC website.

Program Progression and Retention

Like many professional programs, the curriculum in the master's entry level occupational therapy program is fairly fixed and intense. The first four semesters of the six semester program curriculum combine on-campus and online instruction that facilitates professional knowledge, behaviors, and skills that form the foundation for clinical practice. Given the full-time nature of the curriculum, it is recommended that students limit employment to less than 24 hours per week during the first four semesters. The final two semesters of the curriculum include two 12-week off-campus, full-time clinical experiences known as fieldwork. Students are financially responsible for transportation, housing, and meal expenses related to clinical assignments. Due to the demands of occupational therapy fieldwork education, it is recommended that students not participate in additional employment during the final two semesters of the MOT program.

All students in the MOT program must fully comply with the rules and regulations for student conduct and progression as set forth by the University of Cincinnati and University of Cincinnati Graduate School.

In addition, student progression in the MOT program includes the following:

A. Attendance at all on-campus sessions is REQUIRED. On-campus sessions focus on skill development, competency evaluation, group work, guest lectures, oral presentations, level I fieldwork activities, access to UC on-campus resources, and face to face professional behavior and research advising. On-campus requirements for the first four semesters are one-week residency sessions at the beginning, middle, and end of each semester and one evening each week for the non-residency weeks. Additional optional lab sessions are also available one evening per week and students are encouraged to attend. Students missing an on-campus activity due to an emergency situation must notify the course instructor and Program Director as soon as possible. In cases where content cannot be made up, students may be required to

withdraw from a course or courses. Make-up sessions for missed content is at the discretion of the instructor. Students repeatedly missing on campus sessions (including excessive tardiness) may be dismissed from the MOT program.

B. Students must maintain a semester GPA of 3.0 or better throughout the MOT program. In cases where a student falls below this level, the student will be placed on academic probation by the Program and will have one additional semester to raise the overall GPA to a 3.0 or above. A student will be dismissed from the MOT program if their GPA remains below 3.0 for two consecutive semesters.

C. A grade of C or better is required in all MOT graduate coursework. Students receiving a grade below C may request the opportunity to retake the course. However, given the sequential nature of the curriculum, approval to retake a course will require cease participation in the MOT program until the course is offered again in its regular sequence (the following year). This will result in additional time to complete the MOT program as well as all associated expense.

D. A student who receives more than 1 grade below C will be dismissed from the MOT program.

E. The sequential nature of the MOT program curriculum necessitates that all coursework be taken in sequence and on a full-time basis. Withdrawal from any one course equates to withdrawal from the MOT program unless the student requests, and is granted by the Program Director, an academic leave of absence. Students may take a maximum of one year of academic leave of absence then will require reapplication and readmission. (See OT Policy 005)

F. Students are expected to fully comply with all academic fieldwork requirements (level I and level II rotations), including Program and Fieldwork site rules and regulations. Due to the potential for serious ethical dilemmas and the need to develop entry-level generalist competencies, OTA students are not permitted to complete level II fieldwork at a site where they are employed as an OT practitioner. Students cannot begin level II fieldwork until all prior curriculum coursework is completed.

Program Expenses

Students are required to maintain full-time University enrollment, including payment of tuition and College and Program fees. These fees can vary from year to year. The current University and College Fee schedule can be reviewed on the Bursar's website. Yearly tuition rates reflected in the published fee schedule reflect fall and spring semester enrollment. Students should use "per term" rates to reflect the consecutive summer, fall, and spring semester MOT program enrollment.

Textbooks will be required for all MOT courses and expenses associated with these are the responsibility of the student. Students are also required to maintain up to date CPR and First Aid Certification. Estimates of additional MOT program Fees are as follows:

Year 1   AOTA Membership Fee = $75.00
         OTKE Test Fee = $25.00
         SOTA = $30.00

Fieldwork Requirements (background checks, drug screens, etc.) = $100.00 (approximate)
SPSS Software (research) = $110.00
Supplies (Orthotics) = $90.00

Year 2   AOTA Membership Fee = $75.00
OTKE Test Fee = $25.00 x 2
Research Poster Preparation = $30.00
Updated Fieldwork Requirements (background checks, drug screens, etc.) = $100.00
Fieldwork = Transportation / lodging costs, etc.
NBCOT Practice Exam = $100.00

These fees are subject to change. MOT program fees are paid directly to the program, testing agency, background checking agency, or organization.

Graduation

Students are responsible for ensuring that all administrative and academic requirements for graduation have been met. The Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) Degree is awarded upon completion of all required graduate work (typically the end of the second year / sixth semester in the OT Program). The total number of credits hours of graduate occupational therapy work (including both academic and clinical fieldwork) is 84 credit hours. In addition, students must meet the following criteria:

A. Completion of all University of Cincinnati admission, retention, and graduation requirements as outlined in the UC Graduate Handbook.

B. Completion of all MOT required coursework, including 24 weeks of full-time fieldwork (minimum of 940 hours), a completed research project with presentation signed off by the faculty research advisor, MOT program Research Committee Chair, and MOT program Director. All coursework counted towards the degree must be completed at the University of Cincinnati.

C. Maintenance of a minimum of a 3.0 overall GPA with no MOT course below a grade of C (unless that course has been successfully retaken).

D. All MOT program requirements must be completed within 4 years. Students extending beyond that period will be required to reapply and, upon admission, retake all MOT coursework and fieldwork.