University of Puget Sound

Occupational Therapy Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Admission decisions are based on what criteria?
A. 1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university to be completed by August. Student may choose from many undergraduate majors to prepare themselves for graduate work. (University of Puget Sound students applying to the 3-2 program must have senior standing and specific plans for baccalaureate degree completion prior to the beginning of the third semester of the MOT or MSOT program.)
2. Academic ability: A minimum of a 3.0 cumulative undergraduate GPA or a GPA above 3.25 for the last two years of academic work.
3. Written communication skills demonstrated through the required program essay (see essay instructions).
4. Graduate Record Examination scores (taken not more than five years prior to enrollment).
5. Academic performance in prerequisite coursework (a GPA of 3.0 is recommended).
6. Strength of the three required references.
7. Work experience and involvement in service organizations and projects that demonstrate practical experience in the field of occupational therapy or other human services (no minimum number of hours is required).

Q. What prerequisite courses are required for the Occupational Therapy program? Is there a minimum grade point average expected for the Occupational Therapy prerequisites?
A. Please review the Occupational Therapy Program Prerequisite Worksheet directions that can be found in this packet. Each prerequisite course must be passed with a "C" or better.

Q. Is a personal interview required as part of the application process?
A. No, decisions for admission are made on the application materials submitted and an applicant's college credentials. We strongly encourage you to visit the program and meet the faculty, but information from this visit is not recorded for admission decision purposes.

Q. Which section of the GRE test do I take?
A. Take the general test. The GRE must be taken in time for the scores to be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service and received at Puget Sound no later than the January 15 application deadline date. The GRE must be taken not more than five years prior to planned enrollment in the occupational therapy program.

Q. When I apply, my GRE scores will be 5 1/2 years old; are they acceptable?
A. No, the GRE must be taken within five years prior to enrollment in the program. You will need to retake the GRE.

Q. Are there any specific requirements you are looking for in regard to the reference forms?
A. Please complete the top portion of the attached or downloaded forms and distribute to a professor at your college from whom you have taken an academic course; an employer/supervisor; and a credentialed occupational therapist (OTR/L, OT/L, or OTR). All reference forms must be postmarked or date stamped by January 15. If those forms are not returned, the application is considered incomplete. References will be verified. Advising Board evaluations or formal letters substituted for the enclosed Puget Sound forms are not acceptable. Note: References must be submitted by people who are not members of your immediate family.

Q. I've been denied admission to the program; do I have any recourse?
A. Applicants who are denied admission to the program in one year may reapply to the program in a following year, but must also submit a statement with the subsequent application indicating what measures have been taken to strengthen that application.

Please Note:

All students in the Occupational Therapy program are required to undergo a background check by the Washington State Patrol (RCW 43.43.830) prior to placement in on- and off-campus clinical experiences. A felony conviction may also affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or to obtain a state license to practice.