

*Master of Science in Occupational Therapy  
Admission Requirements and Application Process  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS*

**A. Questions about the MSOT Program and CSUDH:**

1. What is the cost of the Program?

In 2011-2012, CSUDH tuition and fees for full-time graduate students was approximately \$3,700 per semester (plus MSOT lab fees). To better estimate Program current cost, refer to the website on tuition and fee rates:  
<http://www.csudh.edu/futurestudents/costs.shtml>

2. How many students do you admit to the Program?

We only admit one cohort of students per year, which starts every Spring semester. In the years 2009 and 2010, we admitted approximately 66-70 students per year.

3. How long is the Program?

Completion of the MSOT Program takes 2 ½ years. Admitted students matriculate together with a set schedule of classes for seven consecutive semesters, including Summer.

4. Can I work while in the Program?

The MSOT Program is meant to be a full-time program. Because of the rigors of the course requirements and fieldwork placements, there will not be much time for work. If you want information about financial aid eligibility, refer to:  
<http://www.csudh.edu/studentaffairs/financialaid/>

5. Do you have information regarding housing and other campus amenities?

Refer to the following information sources:  
Housing: [http://www.csudh.edu/futurestudents/student\\_housing.shtml](http://www.csudh.edu/futurestudents/student_housing.shtml)  
For a Campus Tour: [http://www.csudh.edu/futurestudents/campus\\_tours.shtml](http://www.csudh.edu/futurestudents/campus_tours.shtml)  
Commuting and other campus information:  
[http://www.csudh.edu/studentaffairs/commuter\\_central.shtml](http://www.csudh.edu/studentaffairs/commuter_central.shtml)

## **B. Questions Regarding the Application Process and Packet:**

For application details, please review the document MSOT Application Process and Forms at: <http://www.csudh.edu/cps/hhs/ot/intro.htm>

1. Do I need to turn in transcripts to both the University as well as the Department?

Yes. Since you need to complete applications for both the University as well as the OT Department MSOT Program, you need to fulfill transcript requirements for both separately.

Official transcripts are needed to confirm all claimed completed courses/degrees. Thus, transcripts are required for all previously completed education identified in the CSU Mentor application, which goes to the University Admissions and Records. Application to the MSOT Program just needs the transcripts that reflect the Bachelors GPA as well as grades for all prerequisite courses, which goes to the MSOT Admissions Committee.

2. Does the University Application need to precede the Department MSOT Application?

Yes. We require that you at least begin the University Application process through CSU Mentor prior to submission of the Department Application packet. This allows us to identify you as a student in the University Admissions system when we receive your application packet. CSU Mentor application for Spring semester opens August 1st and ends September 15. Application packets to the MSOT Program are due to the Department no later than September 15 prior to the Spring semester you are applying for.

3. Where do I get the student number needed in the MSOT Application From?

A few days after you process the University Application through CSU Mentor, the University Admissions and Records office will send you a letter of acknowledgement, which would indicate your student number.

4. What is the MSOT Program code asked for in the CSU Mentor University Application?

For CSU Mentor: MSOT Program Code is 12081

5. Do I need to write a personal essay for the MSOT Program application that is submitted to the Department?

No. An essay is not required in the MSOT Application Packet for the Department. The Application to the University, however, asks for a personal statement.

6. It was announced that attendance to an Info session is required, what should I do if I am unable to attend a session because I live out-of-state?

Potential applicants who will be unable to attend an information session need to contact the MSOT Program Director, Dr. Terry Peralta-Catipon: [tperalta@csudh.edu](mailto:tperalta@csudh.edu).

Information session schedules are posted on the website:  
<http://www.csudh.edu/cps/hhs/ot/intro.htm>

7. When can decisions be expected after submission of application?

Selection timeline depends on the number of applicants and admission committee review process. Thus, we are unable to provide specific dates for admission decisions. Nonetheless, decisions have typically been made by mid to late November.

8. If I don't get selected, can I re-apply and do I still need to re-submit all requirements?

Yes. Packets of applicants who did not make the selection are discarded after the final decision has been made. Thus, requirements need to be re-submitted if re-applying to the Program. Nonetheless, prior non-selection does not negatively influence an applicant's chances of getting selected regardless of how many times the person has re-applied.

### **C. Questions Regarding Prerequisite courses:**

1. Can Human Anatomy and Human Physiology be taken as a combined Course?

Yes, combined Anatomy and Physiology courses are acceptable as long as it is offered with Lab components, total at least 6 semester units, focus on general gross human structures, and taken from an accredited institution.

2. Would any type of Developmental Psychology or Lifespan Development course be an acceptable pre-requisite course?

No. It is important that the course focus on human development across the entire lifespan, from infancy to older adult. It is also acceptable to combine two or more Development courses that focus on different life stages, e.g. a course on Childhood Development from infancy to adolescent and a course on Adulthood and Aging.

3. How long ago should all prerequisites have been taken?

Prerequisite courses should have been completed within the last ten years.

4. Could prerequisite courses be in progress upon submission of application?

Applicants are eligible to apply for the Program as long as pre-requisite courses are completed prior to the beginning of the Program. However, out of the five course prerequisites, it is strongly recommended that no more than two courses are in progress at the time of application because grades for these courses are also bases for selection.

5. Is there a minimum required grade for each prerequisite course?

The applicant should have passed each course with at least a C. But grades for all prerequisite courses should have an average of at least a B.

6. Could pre-requisite courses be taken from a community college?

Yes, prerequisite courses could be taken from any accredited college or University

#### **D. Questions regarding the GRE:**

1. Is the GRE still required for applicants who already have an MA or MS of a different field?

Yes.

2. Is there a limit to how many times I can take the GRE?

No. We will take the highest combined Verbal and Quantitative score.

Note that we also require a minimum of 4.0 score on the Analytical Writing portion, but it could be from a test date different from the combined Verbal and Quantitative portions.

3. When requesting for GRE scores to be sent to CSUDH, what do I put as school and department codes?

For the GRE: CSUDH School Code is 4098; OT Department Code is 0618.  
It is very important that you indicate both school and department codes.

#### **E. Questions regarding the GPA requirement:**

1. Could my Bachelors degree be in progress during application?

You are eligible to apply as long as you will complete your Bachelors degree prior to the start of the Program.

2. What do I do if I am an international student and/or I have transcripts/degree from another country?

You need to have your transcripts evaluated. Refer to the World Education Services:

[www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)

For more questions related to being an international student:

[http://www.csudh.edu/futurestudents/international\\_students.shtml](http://www.csudh.edu/futurestudents/international_students.shtml)

3. If I already earned a Masters degree, can I submit the graduate GPA in replacement of my Bachelors GPA?

No. You need to identify the GPA of your Bachelors degree on the checklist, but you can identify your earned Masters degree in the section that asks about previously completed education of the MSOT Program Application Form.

#### **F. Questions regarding OT volunteer or observation hours:**

1. I am having difficulty finding a volunteer site, could you recommend one?

We do not provide a list of possible volunteer sites to potential applicants. Nonetheless, any type of facility or institution is acceptable as long as you are supervised by a registered occupational therapist (OTR).

Another option is to take an OTR course entitled “Introduction to the Scope of Practice and Conceptual Foundations of Occupational Therapy” currently offered through Extended Education: <http://www.csudh.edu/ee/register.html>. Completion of the course waives the required 80 observation hours.

2. How do I confirm my volunteer hours? Do you have a form that needs to be completed?

We do not have a template or form to confirm volunteer hours. The hours could be specified on the required recommendation letter from the supervising OTR, which is written on facility letterhead stationary with contact information for verification purposes. Some facilities provide a certificate of completion, which can also be used.

Note: Volunteer hours can also be completed at multiple sites.

3. Could volunteer/observation hours be in progress upon submission of the application?

We do not recommend that the volunteer hours are pending upon application, especially because you need a recommendation letter from the supervising OTR. Nonetheless, we can accept your application if majority of the required hours is done and there is an ongoing volunteer placement approaching completion.