

# Grand Valley State University

## Occupational Therapy Program

### **Candidate Information Sheet (Traditional Full Time Program)**

Due to the increased number of inquiries and applications to the OT; this information sheet has been developed to assist candidates in obtaining information quickly and efficiently.

#### **Program Information**

For the most complete and up to date information regarding the GVSU OT Program go to the webpage, [www.gvsu.edu/ot/](http://www.gvsu.edu/ot/). Once on the home page click on **Graduate Program**, then click on **Application Process**. This has information about the program, the prerequisites, application process, course equivalencies, tuition/financial aid, and housing. This area has all of the forms needed for application to the program.

In addition, it is recommended that interested candidates also review the other areas on the web site as it contains important information about the program and the profession of occupational therapy.

In the interest of time, please consult the webpage before you contact the OT Program, as you will find the answers to many of your questions.

#### **Key Points**

A new class enters each year in late August. The program has an admission limit of 40 students per year. This group must pass the first phase which includes grades (prereq gpa with no course below a C and a minimum 3.0 average gpa and last 60 hour gpa with minimum 3.0 average gpa), Letters of Recommendation (two; one from a professor or employer if degree is already completed and one from an OT you have volunteered with) and the Achievement Summary (minimum score of 10.0). GVSU does not require the GRE.

Remember that you must have your undergraduate degree completed and all of the prerequisite courses completed prior to starting the program. You do not have to have your degree completed. You must have at least 9.0 credit hours of prereqs completed, excluding Statistics and the Elective, to apply for the program. You must have a minimum of 50 volunteer hours with an OT.

The application deadline is January 15 of the year you will be starting the program. Applications must be received no later than January 15. As stated above there are two phases to the admission process. The first phase includes the preliminary screening, which is done after January 15. All eligible candidates are then invited to the second phase, which consists of an individual interview with a faculty member and a 1 ½ - hour writing exercise. This phase usually is conducted in late February all candidates are notified of the admission decision in mid to late March.

#### **Degree and Prerequisites**

Many students who are admitted to the program are psychology majors. However, we have many students who have degrees in behavioral sciences, health sciences, sociology, social work, anthropology, therapeutic recreation, and kinesiology. These are all excellent degrees, which provide a solid background for occupational therapy. As long as the prerequisite courses are completed, the undergraduate degree may be in any field. We have had students with business, art, and information technology degrees, to name a few others.

On the website the PreReq Calculation Form can be downloaded/printed. This details the prerequisite course requirements for the program and allows you to track your progress.

## Key Points

Course equivalencies for all Michigan 4-year colleges/universities are located on the OT webpage, under Prospective Students. Course equivalencies for all Michigan 4-year colleges/universities and community colleges can be found on the GVSU Registrar's webpage, [www.gvsu.edu/registrar/](http://www.gvsu.edu/registrar/) ; click on **[Course Equivalencies]**.

If you have any questions regarding the prerequisites you must contact the OT Program. All non-GVSU prerequisite courses should be reviewed by the OT Program Admissions Committee to ensure they meet our admissions standards. Any course equivalent not listed on either webpage listed above must be approved by the OT Program Admissions Committee. It is better to ask questions and have the prerequisite course reviewed/approved prior to your enrollment in the course. This will avoid potential barriers in the admission process.

Regarding prerequisites, here are some suggestions for GVSU students. Students in other schools may want to consider the same sequential approach to equivalent courses:

Take these prereqs (or equivalents) in the following sequence:

1. Physiology BMS 290, and Anatomy BMS 208 (prereq BMS 202) and Anatomy lab BMS 309 (prereq B- or better in BMS 208) **OR** anatomy/physiology BMS 250 and BMS 251
2. Kinesiology MOV 300
3. Physiological psychology PSY 330, neuropsychology PSY 431 (prereq PSY 101 and PSY 300 or SS 300) **or** neuroanatomy BMS 427 (prereq BMS 208 and BMS 309)

\* It is suggested that you not take two or more of the above prereqs during the same semester so you do not overload yourself. These prereqs can be sequenced easily one semester after another over four to five semesters.

All Psychology prereqs require PSY 101 be completed first. Life Span Developmental Psychology and Abnormal Psychology (psychopathology) can be taken at any time with other prereqs.

Beginning in the 2016 application cycle a basic statistics course will also be required as a prereq. Also in 2016 at the time of application at least 9.0 credit hours of prereqs must be completed, excluding statistics and the elective.

Maintain a balance in your courses each semester. Mix general courses (Gen Ed courses for GVSU students), undergraduate major courses, and OT prereqs each semester to ensure you are not overloaded.

At a minimum each candidate must have at least a 3.0 gpa average in the last 60 hours of coursework completed prior to the application. Additionally, each candidate must have at least a 3.0 gpa average in the prerequisite coursework with no individual course below a "C". To be most competitive for admission a candidate should have a prereq gpa in the 3.6 - 3.8 range and a last 60 hour gpa in the 3.6 - 3.8 range. It is very difficult to gain admission to the program with a last 60 hour gpa and prereq gpa of between 3.0 - 3.3.

Grades account for 30% of the total consideration for admission to the program. The GVSU admissions process looks at multiple factors besides grades for admission as outlined earlier.

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After reviewing the webpage; if you have any questions regarding the application process or the prerequisite course requirements, please contact:

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