

## Occupational Therapy Program Podcast

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Hello, my name is Kassie and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Grand Valley's post professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (Dr.O.T.) graduate program. Today we're going to cover the admissions process, program requirements, and the attributes that distinguish this high-quality program.

Let's start by explaining to you what this program entails. This Doctor of Occupational Therapy program is designed for practicing occupational therapists who have a desire to expand knowledge and advance practice skills in the areas of policy, advocacy, leadership, and education. This program only serves master's degree credentialed students and qualifies graduates to hold advanced administrative positions in clinic or government settings and to teach at the university level. The Doctor of Occupational Therapy is a 36-credit hour program that is taught in a hybrid format which only requires students to visit GVSU's Grand Rapids Pew campus 1 to 2 times during the program, minimizing travel expenses.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average salary of occupational therapists is \$75,400 per year. As with many positions in health care, occupational therapy jobs are expected to grow quickly over the next decade.

Standard GVSU admission requirements include completion of the online application as well as a Bachelor's and Master's degree from an accredited institution of higher education. Your application must include official transcripts, and if English is not your native language you must provide scores from one of our approved standardized tests such as the TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB, or the PTE Academic. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

Admission to the Dr.O.T. program requires two years of practice experience as an occupational therapist and a GPA of 3.25 over the last 60 credit hours of graduate coursework. Applicant submissions include a critical evaluation of an occupational therapy article, a personal statement, including identification of specific goals and timelines for completing the Dr.O.T. program, along with a professional resume outlining work history and continuing education experiences, and three letters of support from professional colleagues, supervisors, or department heads. The application process also includes a personal interview with two OST department faculty members. More program details as well as the online application can be found on the program website at [gvsu.edu/grad/drot](http://gvsu.edu/grad/drot).

The great news about GVSU's graduate programs is that tuition rates for Michigan resident and non-resident students are the same. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be found at [gvsu.edu/financialaid](http://gvsu.edu/financialaid) or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu).

As I mentioned the Dr.O.T. program offers an online post professional doctorate in occupational therapy across six academic semesters totaling 36 credits. The program provides practitioners the opportunity to explore innovative and emerging topics in chosen areas. Students will develop

knowledge and skills directed toward enhancing leadership and advocacy, participating in public policy activities, dealing with social determinants of health, providing research-based interventions, and educating new therapists. For a complete listing of all courses please visit [gvsu.edu/grad/drot](https://gvsu.edu/grad/drot).

The Dr.O.T program at GVSU is unique for a number of reasons. GVSU is the only public university in Michigan to offer a post professional occupational therapy doctorate degree. Currently, courses are taught in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, a building that is home to a number of allied health science programs and is centrally located on the 'Medical Mile' in downtown Grand Rapids. Additional aspects of this program that make it an appealing option for students include the sense of community between faculty and students, a wide variety of service learning opportunities throughout the West Michigan region, and a state-of-the-art simulation center for skill acquisition.

This is just a snapshot of the post professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy graduate program at Grand Valley State University. We hope that you will consider applying to a graduate program at GVSU. Any questions can be directed to the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Susan Cleghorn, at [cleghors@gvsu.edu](mailto:cleghors@gvsu.edu) or to The Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu). Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.