

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE AND THERAPY
ADMISSIONS POLICY

The review of admissions applications for the MSOT program will occur annually in the winter semester. A candidate will be able to select one delivery model (Traditional or Hybrid) as their first choice each year; candidates may also opt to include the other program as their second choice for admission consideration.

All application materials must be verified by OTCAS no later than the posted January application deadline for admission to the program in the fall of that year. Admission to both the MSOT Program is competitive, with the traditional delivery model accepting up to 40 students and the hybrid delivery model accepting up to 22 students each year.

Grand Valley State University's Department of Occupational Science and Therapy currently has early articulation agreements with Central Michigan University, Hope College, and the University of Michigan. These agreements allow candidates from each institution to apply during their junior year of undergraduate work and hold seats for up to three qualified candidates from each school in the following year's incoming cohort- provided that the three applicants meet the minimum criteria outlined in the official articulation agreement. GVSU students have a similar opportunity through a conditional admit program, which will allow GVSU students to apply during their junior year of undergraduate work and hold seats for the following year's incoming cohort- provided that the applicants meet the minimum criteria outlined in the official articulation agreement.

All students accepted into the MSOT program must have completed a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning prior to beginning the master's program.

Prerequisite Courses: All pre-requisite courses must be completed prior to the start of the MSOT program.

Applicants must have at least 9 credit hours of prerequisites completed by the time of application. The elective and statistics course are not included in this requirement. Each individual prerequisite course must be completed with a grade of C or better.

Advanced Placement: AP Statistics is the only AP course that the MSOT program accepts as meeting a pre-requisite.

Transfer of Credit: GVSU's MSOT program does not accept any occupational therapy specific courses to be transferred into the program. The two non-OT courses in the MSOT curriculum, PNH 668 and STA 610, can be taken in prior to the start of the program at GVSU or their equivalent can be transferred in from another institution.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES

1. The student selects either the Traditional or Hybrid Program within the GVSU OTCAS portal, www.otcas.org, and completes a GVSU Supplemental Application within the OTCAS portal. This application must be completed before any admissions forms for the OT Program are submitted. All OT Program admissions forms are on the OT website, www.gvsu.edu/ot under Future Students, Application Process.

2. Following the posted January OTCAS application deadline, the OST Department will review materials from all verified applications. The Admissions Office will start a file for each student who sends in application materials, and when the application is complete and all supporting materials have been submitted, a copy of the file is obtained by the OT Program.

Phase I:

The program Admissions Committee reviews all applications for the following information and awards points accordingly.

a). GPA of 3.0 or better in all prerequisite courses,	0 – 20
b) GPA of 3.0 or better in the last 60 hours of coursework	0 – 10
c) Three recommendations	0 – 5
d) Achievement Profile- Data pulled from the Experiences section in OTCAS	<u>0 – 25</u>
TOTAL	0 – 60

The points from the review of all application materials are totaled for each candidate.

Candidates are placed in rank order for the Traditional Program and the Hybrid Program. The top 80 applicants for the Traditional Program and the top 40 applicants for the Hybrid Program will be the invited for the personal interviews.

Phase II:

The interview days are arranged to allow each candidate will engage in individual interviews with two OST faculty members and tour the GVSU Health Campus with current OST students. Interviews are scored based on the input of the faculty who interviews the candidate. Interview scores are valued at 20 points each.

Final scores of each candidate are tabulated using a total of 100 available points throughout the admissions process.

a). GPA of 3.0 or better in all prerequisite courses,	0 – 20
b) GPA of 3.0 or better in the last 60 hours of coursework	0 – 10
c) Three recommendations	0 – 5
e) Achievement Profile- Data pulled from the Experiences section in OTCAS	0 – 25
f) Interview 1	0 – 20
g) Interview 2	<u>0 – 20</u>
TOTAL	0 – 100

The Program Admissions Committee then reviews the candidate files for accuracy, looking for calculation errors.

Once the Program Admissions Committee is satisfied that all candidates have been given equal opportunity to demonstrate their abilities, the candidates are ranked on a total score basis.

Traditional Program: The top 40 candidates (minus early admits from Central Michigan University, University of Michigan and Hope College; and deferrals) are sent a letter offering them seats in the Program. They are asked to provide a written reply within 10 days. The balance of candidates over 40 (minus early admits from Central Michigan University, University of Michigan and Hope College; and deferrals) are considered alternates for admission and are ranked according to total score. Each alternate candidate is offered admission one for one in rank order if any of the original 40 candidates declines admission.

Hybrid Program: The top 22 candidates (minus deferrals) are sent a letter offering them seats in the Program. They are asked to provide a written reply within 10 days. The balance of candidates over 22 (minus deferrals) are considered alternates for admission and are ranked according to total score. Each alternate candidate is offered admission one for one in rank order if any of the original 22 candidates declines admission.

Candidates who are not selected are informed by mail as well. These individuals are offered an opportunity to meet with a member of the occupational therapy faculty to: discuss why they were not accepted, be advised regarding whether they should consider reapplication, and determine what they might do to strengthen their application for the next round of admissions. This advising session is recorded and placed in the candidate's program file for future reference.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Acceptance into either Occupational Therapy Traditional or Weekend Hybrid Program is based on applicant performance on a two-phase comprehensive assessment, which includes:

Phase I		POINT VALUE
1)	GPA (minimum 3.0 in both categories)	
	a) Last 60 earned credit hours of undergraduate work	0 – 10
	b) Grade Point Average (GPA) in prerequisite courses	0 – 20
2)	Recommendations (3)	0 – 5 *
	Any combination of:	
	a) A professor who can attest to the quality of your work (Graduate Assistants or Teaching Assistants do not qualify)	
	b) An employer may be substituted for the academic professor requirement.	
	b) An OTR who can attest to your work relative to the requirements in occupational therapy (Occupational Therapy Assistants or other allied health professionals do not qualify)	
3)	Achievement Profile (maximum 5 pts in each category)	0 – 25

Maximum Score Round 1

60 points

*The Recommendations are completed through OTCAS and do not entail a narrative letter of support. Each recommender will be sent a list of character traits, which asks them to assign a 1-5 score for each character trait.

PHASE II

5)	First interview with a faculty member	0 – 20
6)	Second interview with a faculty member	0 – 20

Maximum Score Round 1 (60) plus Round 2 (40)- 100 points

The Program will accept only those candidates who demonstrate consistent above average academic and interview performance, and a pattern of involvement in the activities represented on the Achievement Profile.

INTERACTIVE INTERVIEW PROCEDURES

1. Candidates are notified by mail that they have been selected for an interview and are able to select a date to come for two 1:1 interviews with program faculty. Candidates are told to allow 4 hours for completion of the total process.
2. Upon arrival, candidates will be given an agenda for the day. Current students will be available to meet with candidates, answer any questions related to the program, and lead tours of GVSU's Health Campus.
3. Candidates are then called in for individual interviews, as described below, according to a pre-arranged schedule. These individual interviews take approximately 20-30 minutes.

INTERVIEWS

1. Candidates are shown to a room where they are to be interviewed by a faculty member or a local clinician familiar with the Department's requirements.
2. Candidates are asked to respond to the questions to the best of their ability. Interviewers listen, record, ask probing questions if necessary, and may interact with candidates. The interviewers will use an interview rating form.
3. Candidates will be afforded time at the conclusion of their interview to ask questions about the program, the faculty, the College of Health Professions, and Grand Valley State University.

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