



MASTER OF SCIENCE

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

FRANCES M. MAGUIRE
SCHOOL OF NURSING AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Occupational Therapy Program at GMercyU is to prepare competent, reflective, ethical, and compassionate OT professionals for a successful career and a meaningful life within the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy. This Mission is accomplished through the offering of an education that values integrity, respect, service, and promotion of occupational justice.

Occupational therapy graduates will be prepared to practice as generalists while understanding the value of person-preferred language and conducting therapeutic practices that are occupation-based, client-centered, culturally relevant, and evidence-based in order to promote the health and well-being of individuals and society.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- MSOT program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)
- Program philosophy consistent with GMercyU's Core Values: Integrity in Word and Deed, Respect for the Dignity of Each Person, Service to Society, and Social Justice in a Diverse World
- 77-credit program can be completed over a two year period of study
- State-of-the-art classroom and occupational therapy lab spaces
- Opportunities for leadership in our active Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)
- Only program in the region that offers an infusion of Occupational Science in the Occupational Therapy curriculum
- Curriculum includes course focused concepts promoting client-centered, occupation-based, and evidence-based practices
- Students prepare personal e-Portfolio to help them stand out during job interviews
- Individualized faculty advisement
- Small class sizes
- Diverse fieldwork experience options
- Program is a member of the Philadelphia Region Fieldwork Consortium
- Beautiful campus just 30 minutes from Philadelphia



MEET THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Thomas Mernar, PhD, OTR/L

Associate Professor and Program Director
Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy Programs
mernar.t@gmercyu.edu

Dr. Mernar has been a licensed Occupational Therapist (OTR) for more than 22 years and has clinical experience in acute and sub-acute traumatic brain injury units, sub-acute skilled nursing, long-term care, and assisted living facilities. Dr. Mernar earned his PhD in Occupational Science from the University of Southern California in 2008 and has served as the founding program director of the Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy programs since 2017.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum GPA of ≥ 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Successful completion of the following prerequisite courses with a minimum GPA of ≥ 3.10 on a 4.0 scale. All courses must have been completed within the past 10 years except for Anatomy and Physiology I & II which must have been completed within the past 5 years.
 - Anatomy and Physiology I & II with lab—8 credits (online lab courses not accepted)
 - General Psychology—3 credits
 - Abnormal Psychology/Psychopathology—3 credits
 - Developmental Psychology—3 credits
 - Sociology/Anthropology—3 credits
 - Statistics—3 credits
- Completed Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) application
- Complete minimum of 20 hours of volunteer or paid work experience under an Occupational Therapist Registered (OTR)
- Attest to the Technical Standards of Occupational Therapy Practice
- Complete an interview
- The GRE is not required
- All students are required to have a laptop with camera capabilities throughout the course of the program

HOW TO APPLY

Our rolling admissions application cycle opens in late July. Apply via the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS).*

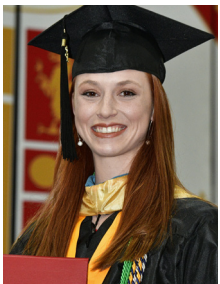
Applicants must have their OTCAS application completed and verified by February 1st. Applications will not be reviewed until they are complete and verified.

Applicants are responsible for confirming that all of the requested materials have been successfully submitted and verified by OTCAS by the February 1st application deadline.

We look forward to reviewing your application!

**To learn more about the OTCAS application process and to create your OTCAS account, please visit the OTCAS website portal at <https://otcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>*

STUDENT SUCCESS



Leigh Herzberger '21

Leigh completed her BHS degree in Occupational Science in 2020 and her MS in Occupational Therapy in 2021. During her time at GMercyU, she served as:

- Occupational Science Representative and Class Representative of her class cohort
- Elected President SOTA
- Elected President of GMercyU's chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon, a national honor society for occupational therapy students

Leigh also won a national AOTA election to serve as the highest student elected leader in the nation as the Chairperson of the Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD) Chairperson from 2022 to 2023..

Leigh is now working as a full-time licensed occupational therapist in pediatrics, she teaches an undergraduate course in occupational science at GMercyU, and hopes to continue her national leadership for years to come.

ACCREDITATION

The entry-level occupational therapy master's degree program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its web address is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure. ACOTE® accredited occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant educational programs satisfy the states' educational requirements in all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Students graduating from an ACOTE® accredited occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant educational program are eligible to take the NBCOT certification exam and apply for licensure in all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

For more information, visit the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy page at gmercyu.edu/OT.