PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Pre-Occupational Therapy preparation is a three or four-year course of study leading to the baccalaureate degree and the completion of required Occupational Therapy Program prerequisite courses, followed by two years of graduate study in Occupational Therapy. Pre-Occupational Therapy in itself is not an undergraduate major at Sacred Heart University. Graduate study in Occupational Therapy requires two calendar years, including summers, of graduate level coursework and supervised clinical fieldwork education beyond the baccalaureate degree. Students may complete their undergraduate degree in a discipline of their choice; however, the Health Science major leading to the Bachelor of Science in Health Science (BSHS) is preferred as it offers students a solid foundation in aspects specific to health care. Pre Occupational Therapy preparation can be accomplished in any undergraduate major but the 3 + 2 plan can only be completed in the Health Science major. The Health Science major must be declared by the end of the freshman year and requires summer and winter intersession courses to complete the baccalaureate degree in three years. Students must successfully complete all required prerequisites by the end of the summer prior to enrolment. A 3.0 cumulative GPA, 3.0 prerequisite science GPA (Biology with lab, Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II with labs), and 3.2 prerequisite GPA with no individual prerequisite course grades below a C are required for admission. Pre-requisite course grades of C or lower are not accepted and must be repeated. All of the following prerequisite courses must be completed with grades entered with the University Registrar by the June 30th application deadline to determine admission status and eligibility for enrollment in the Program: Psychology, Statistics, two of the three science prerequisites (Biology with lab; Human Anatomy & Physiology I with lab; Human Anatomy & Physiology II with lab), and one additional prerequisite course. For details regarding the Graduate Occupational Therapy program, program accreditation, admission, and application information, see Sacred Heart University’s Graduate Catalog or contact the Office of Graduate Admissions.

Freshman Admission Decision Option

A freshman admission decision application option is available to outstanding incoming Sacred Heart University Freshman. Freshman admission requirements include:

- Successful completion of four years of high school Science
- High school GPA of 3.2 or higher in academic courses (Math, Science, History, English, Modern Foreign Language)
- SAT scores of 1080 or higher (SAT required)

Sacred Heart University students accepted to the Occupational Therapy Program as freshmen must meet the following criteria prior to beginning the graduate phase of the Occupational Therapy Program:

- Successful completion of the baccalaureate degree in an undergraduate major
- Successful completion of all prerequisite course requirements with no individual prerequisite course grade below a C, with a 3.2 prerequisite GPA, and,
- Maintenance of a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and,
- A 3.0 prerequisite science GPA (Biology with lab, Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II with labs), and,
- Completion of the online graduate application by June 30th following the junior year for 4 + 2 students, and following the sophomore year for 3 + 2 students

Sacred Heart University undergraduates who were admitted into the Program as freshman who do not meet all of these criteria will lose
their seat and eligibility for enrollment in the Occupational Therapy Program.

Regular Admission Application Option

Sacred Heart University undergraduates, who were not admitted into the Occupational Therapy Program as freshman, may apply to the Program on a competitive basis for either the Early or Regular Decision application options. Sacred Heart University undergraduates should apply by the June 30th application deadline following the junior year for 4 + 2 students, and following the sophomore year for 3 + 2 students. All of the following prerequisite courses must be completed with grades entered with the University Registrar by the application deadline to determine admission status and eligibility for enrollment in the Program: Psychology, Statistics, two of the three science prerequisites (Biology with lab; Human Anatomy & Physiology I with lab; Human Anatomy & Physiology II with lab), and one additional prerequisite course. (See the Office of Graduate Admission’s website for admission criteria and application information):

Sacred Heart University students applying for the Occupational Therapy Program must meet the following criteria:

- Successful completion of the baccalaureate degree in an undergraduate major
- Successful completion of all prerequisite course requirements with no individual prerequisite course grade below a C, with a 3.2 prerequisite GPA, and,
- Maintenance of a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and,
- A 3.0 prerequisite science GPA (Biology with lab, Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II with labs), and,
- Completion of the online graduate application by June 30th following the junior year for 4 + 2 students, and following the sophomore year for 3 + 2 students

Program Accreditation

The Occupational Therapy Program is fully accredited through 2016-2017 under the “Standards for an Accredited Educational Program for the Occupational Therapist-2006” by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). The faculty have refined the curriculum to meet the revised, 2011 ACOTE Standards that went into effect July 31, 2013. For information about accreditation, contact ACOTE c/o American Occupational Therapy Association, 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. Tel: 301-652-6611 ext. 2914, www.acoteonline.org or www.aota.org

Graduates of the program are 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). Most states, including Connecticut, require licensure to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination.

Note: A criminal or felony background or conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination and/or attain state licensure. The graduate occupational therapy program requires the successful completion of all required coursework and level I and level II clinical fieldwork. The majority of clinical sites require students to complete a criminal background check (CBC), fingerprinting, and or drug screening prior to participating in clinical education placements. Students with criminal convictions or backgrounds may not be able to obtain required clinical education
experience(s), thus failing to meet the academic requirements of the Occupational Therapy Program. It is therefore the Occupational Therapy Program's policy that prior to enrolling in the professional graduate phase of the Program, all admitted students must consent, submit to, and satisfactorily complete a criminal background check (CBC) within six (6) weeks of registration for courses as a condition of matriculation. Matriculation will not be final until the completion of the criminal background check with results deemed acceptable to the Program Director or Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. All expenses associated with the CBC, and/or fingerprinting, and/or drug screening are the responsibility of the applicant/student. Students, who do not consent to the required background check, refuse to provide information necessary to conduct the background check, or provide false or misleading information in regard to the background check will be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, refusal of matriculation or dismissal from the program. Please refer to the Occupational Therapy Program's website for the CBC policy and procedures.

Students are admitted to the program on a competitive basis. Admission is based on successful completion of admission requirements, including completion of a baccalaureate degree in a field other than occupational therapy, and completion of all prerequisite courses by the end of the summer semester prior to enrollment. If students require the summer prior to enrollment to complete prerequisites or the baccalaureate degree, any acceptance for admission into the program will be provisional to successful completion of the baccalaureate degree, all prerequisite coursework, maintenance of GPA requirements, and group interview and PBL experience with the Occupational Therapy Admissions Committee. All applicants must have successfully completed all of the following prerequisite courses, with grades entered with the University Registrar, by the time of application: Psychology, Statistics, two of the three prerequisite science courses (Biology with a laboratory, Human Anatomy and Physiology I with laboratory, Human Anatomy and Physiology II with laboratory), and one additional prerequisite course. See the Sacred Heart University Graduate Catalog or contact the Office of Graduate Admissions for admission criteria, application procedures, and program information.

**Faculty**

**JODY BORTONE, ED.D., OT/L**  
Chair and Director of Graduate Occupational Therapy Program and Clinical Associate Professor

**LENORE FROST, PH.D., CHT, FAOTA, OTR/L**  
Clinical Assistant Professor

**LOLA HALPERIN MA, OTR/L**  
Clinical Assistant Professor

**MARY-ELLEN JOHNSON, O.T.D., OTR/L**  
Clinical Assistant Professor

**SHARON MCCLOSKEY MBA, OTR/L, DIPCOT**  
Clinical Assistant Professor

**HEATHER MILLER-KUHANECK, PH.D., F.A.O.T.A., OTR/L**  
Clinical Assistant Professor

**SHEELAGH SCHLEGEL, MPH, OT/L**  
Academic Fieldwork Coordinator

**Prerequisite Course Requirements**

Applicants are required to maintain a 3.2 prerequisite course GPA, a 3.0 science prerequisite course GPA, and a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Only grades of C or better meet prerequisite course requirements. Students must take the following prerequisite courses while fulfilling requirements for their major field of study in earning a traditional Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science
degree:

- Biology I with lab (4 credits)
- Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II with laboratories (8 credits)*
- Life Span Development or Developmental Psychology (course content must include the entire lifespan from birth to old age) (3–9 credits)
- Psychology (3 credits)
- Abnormal Psychology (3 credits)
- Sociology, or Anthropology, or Multicultural/Diversity Studies, or Social Psychology (3 credits)
- Statistics, or Psychological Statistics, Social Statistics, or Biostatistics (3 credits*) (Must include descriptive statistics, probability, confidence intervals, correlation and hypothesis testing)

* Must have been taken within the past 10 years.

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES

The following courses will help you once in the Occupational Therapy Program

- Neuroscience, or Brain and Behavior
- Physics
- Exercise Science
- Kinesiology