

# OT Program Information for Prospective Students

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Hickory NC  
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[www.lr.edu/ot](http://www.lr.edu/ot)

<b>Definition of OT:</b> Occupational therapy is skilled treatment that helps individuals achieve independence in all facets of their lives. It gives people the “skills of the job of living” necessary for independent and satisfying lives. Occupational therapy practitioners are skilled professionals whose education includes the study of human growth and development with specific emphasis on the social, emotional, and physiological effects of illness and injury. <a href="http://www.aota.org">www.aota.org</a>	<b>LR’s OT Curriculum:</b> To practice as an occupational therapist, one must obtain a master’s degree in OT.  The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree includes a curriculum sequence of 2 summer and 2 academic years (24 months).  Total graduate credit hours equal 63.
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## Program Contacts:

(Hickory) Kristen Wilson, administrative assistant, (828) 328-7367, [kristen.wilson@lr.edu](mailto:kristen.wilson@lr.edu); and Toni Oakes, Program Director, (828) 328-7366, [toni.oakes@lr.edu](mailto:toni.oakes@lr.edu)  
(Columbia) Caitlin Stratemeyer, administrative assistant, (803) 461-3321, [caitlin.stratemeyer@lr.edu](mailto:caitlin.stratemeyer@lr.edu); and Neki Richardson, Site Coordinator, (803) 461-3320, [nashauna.richardson@lr.edu](mailto:nashauna.richardson@lr.edu)

## FACULTY

Toni Oakes, EdD, MS, OTR/L, Program Director & Professor, Hickory  
John Connelly, EdD, MSOL, OTR/L, Associate Professor, Hickory  
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Grace Turner, MS, OTR/L, Instructor, Hickory  
Sheri Toner, MS, OTR/L, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Hickory  
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Cindy Sears, OTD, MA, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, Columbia  
Patricia Tomsic, OTD, MS, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, Columbia  
Erin Jeffords, MS, OTR/L, Instructor, Columbia  
Gejuanna Fletcher, OTD, OTR/L, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Columbia

LR’s School of Occupational Therapy received a Certificate of Accreditation for a period of 7 years from academic year 2018/2019 to 2025/2026 by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), mailing address: 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449; 301-652-AOTA; <https://acoteonline.org/>. The LR School of Occupational Therapy sponsors one OT program with two cohorts located in Hickory, NC and Columbia, SC. The program vision, mission, curriculum, and student learning outcomes are identical for both sites, incorporating strategic use of interactive video networking for dynamic learning to promote achievement of student learning outcomes between cohorts. Full-time faculty on both campuses are licensed occupational therapists.

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will be eligible for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) examination. To practice as an occupational therapist, one must obtain a master’s degree in OT and pass the national certification examination given by NBCOT.

To inquire into student loans and alternate loans, contact Financial Aid Director, Courtney Thompson-Ballard at (828)328-7182 or at [courtney.thompson@lr.edu](mailto:courtney.thompson@lr.edu). To schedule a visit, please contact Emily Heaberlin, Director of Graduate Admission, at (828) 328-7731 or at [emily.heaberlin@lr.edu](mailto:emily.heaberlin@lr.edu).

**Alumni Advantage:** If you are an LR graduate, you may be eligible for a discount toward your tuition. Visit <https://www.lr.edu/admission/undergraduate/financial-aid/alumni-advantage> for further details.

## OT Program Information for Prospective Students

Our recently approved curriculum revision is 24 months long including 63 credit hours. Instead of beginning in the summer, the program for the Class of 2024 will begin in August 2022. (ACOTE approved 12.15.21)

	Fall	Spring	Summer
<b>Year One</b>	<b><u>Minimester 1:</u></b> <b>OCC 506</b> Applied Body Structure and Function (3) <b>OCC 506L</b> Applied Body Structure and Function Lab (1) <b>OCC 503</b> Applied Principles of OT (3) <b>OCC 503L</b> Applied Principles of OT Lab (1)  <b>Credit hours=8</b>  <b><u>Minimester 2:</u></b> <b>OCC 504</b> Physical Rehabilitation (3) <b>OCC 504L</b> Physical Rehabilitation Lab (1) <b>OCC 514</b> Mental Health (3) <b>OCC 514L</b> Mental Health Lab (1)  <b>Credit hours=8</b>	<b><u>Minimester 1:</u></b> <b>OCC 521</b> Advanced OT Adults (3) <b>OCC 521L</b> Advanced OT Adults Lab (1) <b>OCC 524</b> Pediatrics (3) <b>OCC 524L</b> Pediatrics Lab (1)  <b>Credit hours=8</b>  <b><u>Minimester 2:</u></b> <b>OCC 534</b> Gerontology (3) <b>OCC 534L</b> Gerontology Lab (1) <b>OCC 525</b> Advanced OT Pediatrics Practice (3) <b>OCC 525L</b> Advanced OT Pediatrics Lab (1)  <b>Credit hours=8</b>	<b>OCC 540</b> Level IA (1) <b>OCC 541</b> Level IB (1) <b>OCC 542</b> Level IC (1)  <b>Credit hours=3</b> Level I fieldwork is completed during the first summer following the first academic year. These clinical experiences will include areas of physical disabilities, mental health, geriatrics and/or pediatrics. All students will participate in a minimum of 120 hours of Level I Fieldwork during their occupational therapy education.
	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Year Two</b>	<b><u>Minimester 1:</u></b> <b>OCC 604</b> Applied OT Process (2) <b>OCC 505</b> Health Systems (2) <b>OCC 569</b> Professional Practice (2) <b>OCC 650</b> Research I(Methods) (2)  <b>Credit hours=8</b>  <b><u>Minimester 2:</u></b> <b>OCC 571</b> FWIIA (3) <i>last 12 weeks of the semester</i>  <b>Credit hours=3</b>	<b><u>Minimester 1:</u></b> <b>OCC 633</b> Admin/Prog Devel (3) <b>OCC 651</b> Research 2 (Applied) (2) <b>OCC 602</b> Grand Rounds MM1 (3)  <b>Credit hours=8</b>  <b><u>Minimester 2:</u></b> <b>OCC 692</b> Leadership (2) <b>OCC 691</b> Professional Reasoning (2) <b>OCC 653</b> Research 3 (2) (Scholarly Contributions) <b>Credit hours=6</b>	<b>OCC 672 FW11B</b> (3)  <b>Credit hours=3</b>  Level II fieldwork is composed of two 12-week, full-time clinical rotations for a required total of 24 weeks of Level II Fieldwork experience.  <b>This curriculum sequence is subject to change.</b> <b>Revised 11/15/21</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>

### Occupational Therapy Clinical Fieldwork

All OT students are required to complete three Level I and two Level II fieldwork rotations in order to graduate and be eligible to take the National Board Examination. During the student's Level II Fieldwork, s/he may be placed in a site that is not within commuting distance of his/her residence. Very few sites provide free housing. Fieldwork sites can sometimes provide the student information or possible temporary housing. It is the sole responsibility of the student to arrange for their housing prior to the commencement of their FW II experience. Students must budget for related transportation and living expenses for fieldwork experiences as Level II fieldworks can occur anywhere in the United States.

# OT Program Information for Prospective Students

Applications submitted this current cycle will be considered for Fall 2023. Please apply to your campus of preference (Hickory, NC, or Columbia, SC: two separate applications). If you are interested in being considered for either location, please apply to both.

## Early Decision

The *Early Decision* deadline is October 15, 2022. Early decision is for applicants who meet the minimum admission criteria and have made the program their top school of choice. This process allows candidates to apply and receive an admission decision prior to the review of applications during the regular application period. To be considered for Early Decision, your application must be verified by October 15, 2022, 11:59 PM (EST). Students who apply for Early Decision are guaranteed placement in the campus of preference if accepted. Students who apply for Early Decision are expected to commit to enrollment if accepted. Applicants should receive an admission decision within 2 - 4 weeks.

## Regular Decision

After the Early Decision period, the *Regular Decision* deadline is January 15, 2023. To be considered for admission, your application must be verified by January 15, 2023, 11:59 PM (EST). Applicants should receive an admission decision within 4-6 weeks.

## Final Decision

If seats are available at either location following the Regular Decision period, applications will be accepted for the *Final Decision* deadline, April 15, 2023. To be considered for admission, your application must be verified by April 15, 2023, 11:59 PM (EST). Applicants should receive an admission decision within 4-6 weeks.

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\*Per OTCAS: Once all your required application materials are received, your application's status changes to Complete, and your application is placed in line to be verified. Verifications occur in chronological order and can take up to 10 business days to complete. Once your application is verified, you will receive a notification and your application's status will change to Verified.

\*It is the applicant's responsibility to know the status of their application.

## MINIMAL CRITERIA FOR OT APPLICATION REVIEW

1. Lenoir-Rhyne University will accept applications for the program's Fall cohort through the Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy programs ([OTCAS](#)). The application window opens in July and the LRU School of OT has three dates for application review. Please see above for Decision Deadlines.
2. Completion of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States, prior to matriculation.
3. Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
4. Completion of all the prerequisite coursework with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
5. Completion of the following prerequisite courses with a grade of **B-** or better:
  - o Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II with labs
  - o Intro Psychology
  - o Abnormal Psychology
  - o Developmental Psychology
  - o Statistics (includes Intro to Statistics)
  - o Sociology (includes Intro to Sociology) OR Anthropology (includes Intro to Anthropology)
  - o Medical Terminology

**Note:** Prerequisite course completion must be within 5 years of application date unless waived following approval of [OT Waiver of Five-Year Limit form](#). If you are unsure if a course you have taken satisfies the prerequisite requirement, you may submit the [Prerequisite Inquiry form](#). Only submit this form if you are unsure.

6. Submit three letters of reference (evaluations). One letter of reference must come from a practicing OTR. Other letters of reference must come from an OT, employer, supervisor, or professor. All applicants requesting recommendations need to have references indicate their title/position and specifically the number of hours of observation. Applicants are encouraged to independently log their own hours to make this information readily available for the individual writing the letter of reference.
7. Essay (Reflective Statement): Submit a reflective statement (between 750 and 1000 words) in addition to the required general OTCAS personal statement, to convey your understanding of the Occupational Therapy profession. Using your observational/shadowing experiences and knowledge of OT as a foundation, respond to the following questions:
  - a. Why OT? What did you learn about OT through your experiences? How do you define OT? What personal attributes make you a good fit for OT?
  - b. What is evidenced-based practice? How did you see it applied in service delivery? Why is it important for OT practice?

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- c. How do you maintain your positive well-being in times of stress?
  - d. What kinds of experiences have you had with people of cultural and diverse backgrounds different than your own that will prepare you for working with clients?
  - e. How would you encourage clients and honor their uniqueness when providing OT services?
8. Recommend minimum 40 hours of observational hours.
9. National Background Check:
  - a. Candidates for admission must satisfy a background check before enrolling in summer courses.
  - b. Applicants convicted of a felony or misdemeanor may be denied certification or licensure as an occupational therapist. For information regarding eligibility, contact appropriate credentialing boards (i.e., NBCOT). Fieldwork education sites may not permit participation in the clinical experience. Serious consideration by the candidate must occur prior to application and matriculation.
10. Priority consideration will be given to LR undergraduates, SC residents, graduates of [LR educational partners](#), and applicants who have demonstrated relevant work experience or have earned a previous graduate degree.
11. Although an interview may not be required, all applicants must be available to interview upon request.

**\*\*It is important to note that each application will be considered via holistic review and based on individual merit\*\***

## OT Program Information for Prospective Students

<b>Estimate of Costs for OT School (Subject to change)</b>	
<b>Overall University &amp; Tuition Fees (Available from The Graduate School and updated annually)</b>	
(**Tuition costs are available from Enrollment Management and are updated annually, subject to change)	
Deposit (counts toward tuition)	\$970.00
**Additional tuition fees (970*62)	\$60,140.00
<b>Tuition total</b>	<b>\$61,110.00</b>
CastleBranch Background Check	\$62.00
<b>Misc. Subtotal</b>	<b>\$62.00</b>
<b>Fall 1</b>	
<i>Tuition: 16 Credits X \$970.00</i>	\$15,520.00
Books	\$600.00
Supplies for Anatomy Lab	\$80.00
AOTA Membership (purchase first week of class)	\$75.00
SOTA Membership (purchase first week of class)	\$10.00
<b>Fall 1 Misc. Subtotal</b>	<b>\$765.00</b>
<b>Spring 1</b>	
<i>Tuition: 16 Credits X \$970.00</i>	\$15,520.00
Books	\$600.00
TYPHON Fee (one-time fee)	\$90.00
CPR (FW required) may be scheduled on campus	\$45.00
Liability Ins. (FW required)	\$86.00
TB Test (FW required) 2 step	\$60.00
Name Badge (FW required) ordered through program	\$8.00
Replacement Name Badge (if needed)	\$14.00
<b>Spring 1 Misc. Subtotal</b>	<b>\$903.00</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Summer</b>	
<i>**Tuition: 3 Credits x \$970.00</i>	\$2,910.00
CastleBranch Background Check & Drug Screening (if FW requires update)	\$95.00
<b>Summer 1 Misc. Subtotal</b>	<b>\$95.00</b>
<b>Fall 2</b>	
<i>**Tuition: 11 Credits x \$970.00</i>	\$10,670.00
Books	\$366.00
NBCOT Practice Test (OCC 602 required)	\$30.00
AOTA Membership (renew first week of class)	\$75.00
SOTA Membership (renew first week of class)	\$10.00
<b>Fall 2 Misc. Subtotal</b>	<b>\$481.00</b>
<b>Spring 2</b>	
<i>**Tuition: 14 Credits x \$970.00</i>	\$13,580.00
Books	\$380.00
NBCOT Practice Test (OCC 691 required)	\$30.00
Cap, Gown & Hood (Grad. Hooding ceremony in May only)	\$90.00
Liability Ins. (FW required)	\$38.00
<b>Spring 2 Misc. Subtotal</b>	<b>\$538.00</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Summer</b>	
<i>**Tuition: 3 Credits X \$970.00</i>	\$2,910.00
CastleBranch Background check (if FW requires update)	\$62.00
<b>Summer 2 Misc. Subtotal</b>	<b>\$62.00</b>
<b>Post-Graduation</b>	
IER Study Course (optional)	\$215.00
Certification Exam Online Application Fee (NBCOT)	\$515.00
State Reporting Fee with Application	\$50.00
<b>Post Grad. Subtotal</b>	<b>\$780.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,796.00</b>
<b>Remove University Tuition &amp; Fees:</b>	<b>\$61,110.00</b>
<b>Misc. expenses total:</b>	<b>\$3,686.00</b>