

625 7th Ave NE  
Hickory NC  
28601  
(828) 328-7367

# LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY

School of Occupational Therapy  
[www.lr.edu/ot](http://www.lr.edu/ot)

4201 N. Main St.  
Columbia, SC  
29203  
(803) 461-3321

## Definition of OT:

Occupational Therapy is defined as the therapeutic use of everyday life occupations with persons, groups, or populations (i.e., clients) for the purpose of enhancing or enabling participation. Occupational therapy practitioners use their knowledge of the transactional relationship among the client, their engagement in valuable occupations, and the context to design occupation-based intervention plans. Occupational therapy services are provided for habilitation, rehabilitation, and promotion of health and wellness for clients with disability- and non-disability-related needs. Services promote acquisition and preservation of occupational identity for those who have or are at risk for developing an illness, injury, disease, disorder, condition, impairment, disability, activity limitation, or participation restriction. (p. 80)

American Occupational Therapy Association. (2020c). Occupational therapy practice framework: Domain and process (4th ed.). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 74(Suppl. 2), 7412410010.  
<https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.74S2001>

## LR's OT Curriculum:

LR's Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy includes:  
24-month curriculum sequence  
2 academic years including 2 summer sessions  
Total of 63 graduate credit hours.

## LR's OT Accreditation:

LR's OT program received a Certificate of Accreditation for a period of 7 years from academic year 2018/2019 to 2025/2026 by ACOTE.  
Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education  
6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 200,  
North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929; 301-652-AOTA;  
<https://acoteonline.org/>.

## PROGRAM CONTACTS

Matt Barr, administrative assistant-Hickory (828) 328-7947 [matt.barr@lr.edu](mailto:matt.barr@lr.edu)  
Toni Oakes, OT Program Director, (828) 328-7366 [toni.oakes@lr.edu](mailto:toni.oakes@lr.edu)  
Diane Epperly, administrative assistant-Columbia (803) 461-3237 [diane.epperly@lr.edu](mailto:diane.epperly@lr.edu)  
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## FACULTY

Toni Oakes, EdD, MS, OTR/L, Program Director & Professor, Hickory  
John Connelly, EdD, MSOL, OTR/L, Professor, Hickory  
Nicole Coffey, DrOT, MS, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, Hickory  
Grace Turner, MS, OTR/L, Instructor, Hickory  
Sheri Toner, MS, OTR/L, Instructor-Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Hickory  
Nashauna Richardson, EdD, MS, OTR/L, Site Coordinator & Assistant Professor, Columbia  
Lesly Wilson James, PhD, MPA, PMP, OTR/L, FAOTA, Associate Professor, Columbia  
Erin Jeffords, OTD, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, Columbia  
Jesse Ausec, MS, OTR/L, Instructor, Columbia  
Gejuanna Fletcher, OTD, OTR/L, Assistant Professor-Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Columbia  
All OT faculty are licensed occupational therapists.

LR's School of OT sponsors one OT program with cohorts in Hickory, NC and Columbia, SC. Program vision, mission, curriculum, and student learning outcomes are identical for both sites, incorporating strategic use of synchronous and asynchronous recordings to promote achievement of student learning outcomes. After completion of the program, students are eligible to take the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) examination. To practice, OT students must pass the NBCOT exam and obtain state licensure.

To inquire into student and alternate loans, contact Financial Aid Director, Courtney Thompson-Ballard at (828) 328-7182; [courtney.thompson@lr.edu](mailto:courtney.thompson@lr.edu).

To schedule a visit, contact Rick Nichols, Director of Graduate Admission, at (828) 328-7294 or [rick.nichols@lr.edu](mailto:rick.nichols@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.

	Fall	Spring	Summer
<b>Year One</b>	<p><b><u>Minisession 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)</p> <p><b>Credit hours=8</b></p> <p><b><u>Minisession 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)</p> <p><b>Credit hours=8</b></p>	<p><b><u>Minisession 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)</p> <p><b>Credit hours=8</b></p> <p><b><u>Minisession 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)</p> <p><b>Credit hours=8</b></p>	<p><b>OCC 540</b> Level IA (1)  <b>OCC 541</b> Level IB (1)  <b>OCC 542</b> Level IC (1)</p> <p><b>Credit hours=3</b>  These clinical experiences will include areas of physical disabilities, mental health, geriatrics and/or pediatrics.</p>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Year Two</b>	<p><b><u>Minisession 1:</u></b>  <b>OCC 604</b> Applied OT Process (3)  <b>OCC 505</b> Health Systems (2)  <b>OCC 569</b> Professional Practice (2)  <b>OCC 650</b> Research I (Methods) (2)</p> <p><b>Credit hours=9</b></p> <p><b><u>Minisession 2:</u></b>  <b>OCC 571</b> FWIIA (3) <i>last 12 weeks of the semester</i></p> <p><b>Credit hours=3</b></p>	<p><b><u>Minisession 1:</u></b>  <b>OCC 633</b> Admin/Prog Devel (3)  <b>OCC 652</b> Research 2 (Applied) (2)  <b>OCC 602</b> Grand Rounds (2)</p> <p><b>Credit hours=7</b></p> <p><b><u>Minisession 2:</u></b>  <b>OCC 692</b> Leadership (2)  <b>OCC 691</b> Professional Reasoning (2)  <b>OCC 654</b> Research 3 (2) (Scholarly Contributions)</p> <p><b>Credit hours=6</b></p>	<p><b>OCC672 FW11B (3)</b></p> <p><b>Credit hours=3</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>This curriculum sequence is subject to change. Revised 9.29.23</b></p>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</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 (FW) rotations to graduate and be eligible to take the National Board Examination. During the student's Level II FW, they may be placed in a site not within commuting distance of their residence. It is the sole responsibility of the student to arrange for their housing prior to the start of their FW II experiences. Students must budget for related transportation and living expenses for FW experiences as Level II sites may be anywhere in the United States.

\*Per OTCAS (Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy programs: 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.

Applications submitted during this current cycle will be considered for fall 2024. Please apply to your campus of preference Hickory NC or Columbia SC on your OTCAS application.

### **Early Decision**

The *Early Decision* deadline is October 15th, 2023. Early Decision is for applicants who meet the minimum admission criteria and have made the OT program at LR their 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, 2023, 11:59 PM (EST). Students who apply for Early Decision are guaranteed placement on 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 two - four weeks.

### **Regular Decision**

After the Early Decision, the deadline is January 15th, 2024. To be considered for admission, your application must be verified by January 15, 2024, 11:59 PM (EST). Applicants should receive an admission decision within four - six weeks.

### **Final Decision**

If seats are available at either location following the regular decision, applications will be accepted for the *Final Decision* deadline, April 15th, 2024. To be considered for admission, your application must be verified by April 15, 2024, 11:59 PM (EST). Applicants should receive an admission decision within four - six weeks.

### **Minimal criteria for OT application review:**

1. Lenoir-Rhyne University will accept applications for the OT cohort Fall start through the Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy programs (OTCAS). OTCAS's application window opens in July. Our OT program 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 US, prior to matriculation
3. Cumulative GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 or higher
4. Completion of all the prerequisite coursework with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale by **June 1, 2024**.
5. Completion of the following prerequisite courses with a grade of **B-** or better:
  - Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II with labs
  - Intro Psychology
  - Abnormal Psychology
  - Developmental Psychology
  - Statistics (includes Intro to Statistics)
  - Sociology (includes Intro to Sociology) OR Anthropology (includes Intro to Anthropology)
  - Medical Terminology

**Note:** Prerequisite course completion must be within 5 years of application date unless waived following approval of prerequisite course waiver form. OT Waiver of Five-Year Limit Form <https://www.lr.edu/occupational-therapy-ms/ot-waiver-five-year-limit> If you are unsure if a course you have taken satisfies the prerequisite requirement, you may submit the Prerequisite Inquiry Form <https://www.lr.edu/occupational-therapy-prerequisite-inquiry>. Only submit this form if you are unsure.

6. Submit three letters of reference (evaluations). At least one letter of reference must come from a practicing OTR. Other letters of reference must come from an employer, supervisor, or professor. When requesting reference letters, ask the individual to include their title/position/profession and total number of student observation hours as provided on student's log of hours.
7. Essay (Reflective Statement): Submit a reflective statement (between 750 - 1000 words) in *addition* to the required general OTCAS personal statement, to convey your understanding of the OT profession. Using your observational/shadowing experiences and knowledge of OT as a foundation, respond to all 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? Include experiences that demonstrate your leadership skills.
  - b. What is evidenced-based practice? How did you see it applied in service delivery? Why is it important for OT practice?
  - 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 be prepared to have a background check before enrolling in FW experiences.
  - b. Applicants convicted of a felony or misdemeanor may be denied certification or licensure as an occupational therapist. For eligibility information, contact NBCOT. Fieldwork sites may not permit participation in the clinical experience thus serious consideration by the candidate must occur prior to application.
10. Priority consideration will be given to LR undergraduates, 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.