

**Lenoir-Rhyne University  
School of Occupational Therapy  
For Classes Starting August 2026**

OT is the therapeutic use of occupations to enhance successful participation and achievement in meaningful daily roles. The scope of OT services includes habilitation, rehabilitation, and enhancement of ability-related needs in physical, mental health, and wellness. By using clinical reasoning and professional judgment to assess, analyze, and identify occupational challenges, targeted, occupation-based interventions are implemented. Through skilled interventions and engagement in meaningful daily activities, OT supports occupational performance in clients who have, or are at risk of developing, illnesses, injuries, diseases, disorders, conditions, impairments, disabilities, activity limitations, or participation restrictions.

*Adopted as part of the Occupational Therapy Scope of Practice document by the Representative Assembly Coordinating Council (RACC) for the Representative Assembly, 2021*

**LR'S OT CURRICULUM**

LR's Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy includes a 24-month curriculum sequence of 2 academic years including 2 summer sessions totaling 63 graduate credit hours. LR's OT program has two locations, 625 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Hickory, NC and 4201 N. Main St Columbia, SC. [www.lr.edu/ot](http://www.lr.edu/ot)

Lenoir-Rhyne will increase enrollment in the Occupational Therapy program at the Hickory campus and pause admission to the OT program at our Columbia location beginning in fall 2025. This will not affect the enrollment or education of the two cohorts of OT students who are currently enrolled in Columbia. They will continue their program and graduate from the Columbia location.

LR's accredited OT program was reaccredited by ACOTE for 7 years from academic year 2018/2019 to 2025/2026 by the Accreditation Council for OT Education (ACOTE) 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E Bethesda, MD 20814 [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org) or [accred@aota.org](mailto:accred@aota.org) 301-652-6611. Pass rates are available at [NBCOT](http://NBCOT). Cost of Program available at [Cost of LR OT Program](#).

**PROGRAM CONTACTS**

Nicole Coffey, Hickory - Interim OT Program Director 828-328-7209 [nicole.coffey@lr.edu](mailto:nicole.coffey@lr.edu)

Erin Jeffords, Columbia – Assistant Professor, 803-461-3320 [erin.jeffords@lr.edu](mailto:erin.jeffords@lr.edu)

Sandy Featherstone, Hickory - Administrative Assistant [sandy.featherstone@lr.edu](mailto:sandy.featherstone@lr.edu)

**FACULTY** (All OT faculty are licensed occupational therapists).

Nicole Coffey, DrOT, MS, OTR/L, Interim Program Director and Assistant Professor, Hickory

John Connelly, EdD, MSOL, OTR/L, Professor, Hickory

Joseph Rhyne, MS, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, Hickory

Alicia Brindle, OTD, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, Hickory

Sarah Vulpitta, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, Hickory

Cassie Goodenough, MSOT, OTR/L, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Hickory

Erin Jeffords, OTD, OTR/L, Assistant Professor, Columbia

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 the strategic use of asynchronous recordings to promote achievement of student learning outcomes. OT Graduates 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 visit, contact Rick Nichols, Graduate Admission Counselor, at (828) 328-7294 or [rick.nichols@lr.edu](mailto:rick.nichols@lr.edu).

For current information regarding **financial aid** for graduate students, visit our website at <https://www.lr.edu/financial-aid-costs/graduate-cost-and-aid> or contact the Office of Financial Aid at (828) 328-7300 or (800) 277-5721.

For student and alternate **loans**, contact Financial Aid Director, Courtney Thompson-Ballard at (828) 328-7182; [courtney.thompson@lr.edu](mailto:courtney.thompson@lr.edu). If you are an LR graduate, visit <https://www.lr.edu/admission/undergraduate/financial-aid/alumni-advantage>.

### MS IN OT CURRICULUM SEQUENCE

	Fall	Spring	Summer
<b>Year One</b>	<p><b>Mini session 1:</b>  <b>OCC 506</b> Applied Body Structure &amp; Function (3)  <b>OCC 506L</b> Applied Body Structure &amp; 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></p> <p><b>Mini session 2:</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></p>	<p><b>Mini session 1:</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></p> <p><b>Mini session 2:</b>  <b>OCC 534</b> Gerontology (3)  <b>OCC 534L</b> Gerontology Lab (1)  <b>OCC 525</b> Adv OT Pediatrics Practice (3)  <b>OCC 525L</b> Adv OT Pediatrics Lab (1)  <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)  <b>Credit hours = 3 *</b>            These clinical experiences will include areas of physical disabilities, mental health, geriatrics, and/or pediatrics.  <b>* Note that summer coursework is not covered by financial aid as it is not full-time.</b></p>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Year Two</b>	<p><b>Mini session 1:</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)  <b>Credit hours = 9</b></p> <p><b>Mini session 2:</b>  <b>OCC 571</b> FWIIA (3) <i>last 12 weeks of semester</i>  <b>Credit hours = 3</b></p>	<p><b>Mini session 1:</b>  <b>OCC 633</b> Admin/Prog Devel (3)  <b>OCC 652</b> Research 2 (Applied) (2)  <b>OCC 602</b> Grand Rounds (2)  <b>Credit hours = 7</b></p> <p><b>Mini session 2:</b>  <b>OCC 692</b> Leadership (2)  <b>OCC 691</b> Professional Reasoning (2)  <b>OCC 654</b> Research 3 (2)  <b>Credit hours = 6</b></p>	<p><b>OCC672 FW11B</b> (3)  <b>Credit hours = 3 *</b>            Two 12-week full-time clinical rotations, for a total of 24 weeks, are required to graduate.  <b>* Note that summer coursework is not covered by financial aid as it is not full-time.</b>  <b>This curriculum sequence is subject to change.</b></p>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>

## **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CLINICAL FIELDWORK**

All OT students must successfully complete three Level I and two Level II fieldwork (FW) rotations to graduate to be eligible to take the NBCOT exam. During FW rotations, students are responsible for reliable transportation and arranging their housing before their FWII experiences start. Students must budget for related transportation and living expenses for FW experiences as Level II site locations typically require students to relocate as they may be anywhere in the United States.

## **ADMISSION**

Verification of your application by OTCAS may take up to 10 business days to complete. Applicants will be notified when verified. Applications submitted during this current cycle will be considered for the upcoming Fall admission. Indicate your campus of preference on your OTCAS application.

## **ROLLING ADMISSION FOR 2026**

Applications will be reviewed monthly starting October 2025, and decisions will be communicated after each review cycle. Applications must be submitted to OTCAS no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>. Early application is strongly encouraged to guarantee consideration for admission.

## **EARLY DECISION FOR FALL 2026 ADMISSION**

The Early Decision deadline is **October 15, 2025**. Applicants must meet the minimum admission criteria and have made LR's OT program their school of choice and will commit to enrolling if accepted. For consideration for early decisions, applications must be verified by October 15, 2025, 11:59 PM (EST). Admission decisions are received within 2-4 weeks.

## **REGULAR DECISION FOR FALL 2026 ADMISSION**

The Regular Decision deadline is **January 15, 2026**. For consideration for admission, your application must be verified by January 15, 2026, 11:59 PM (EST). Admission decisions are received within 4-6 weeks.

## **FINAL DECISION FOR FALL 2026 ADMISSION**

If seats are available, applications will be accepted for the Final Decision deadline, **April 15, 2026**. For consideration for admission, your application must be verified by April 15, 2026, 11:59 PM (EST). Admission decisions are received within 4-6 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. Refer to the 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 prior to being eligible for enrollment.
5. Completion of the following 8 prerequisite courses with a grade of B- or better: 1) Human Anatomy and Physiology I with lab, 2) Human Anatomy and Physiology II with lab, 3) Intro Psychology, 4) Abnormal Psychology, 5) Developmental Psychology, 6) Statistics (includes Intro to Statistics), 7)

Sociology (includes Intro to Sociology) OR Anthropology (includes Intro to Anthropology), and 8) 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 **3** letters of reference (evaluations). One letter of reference **must** come from a practicing **OTR**. Letters of reference must come from an OT/L (not a COTA), employer, supervisor, or professor and include their title/position/profession and total number of student observation 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. Applicants must respond to **ALL** five of 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 evidence-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 during 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 a minimum of 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 before application.
10. Priority consideration given to LR undergraduates, graduates of LR educational partners, and applicants who have relevant work experience or have earned a previous graduate degree.
11. Although an interview is not required, all applicants must be available to interview upon request.

**ESTIMATE OF COSTS OF ATTENDANCE FOR LR'S MSOT PROGRAM 2024-2026 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

<b>Tuition</b>	<b>Tuition</b>	<b>Course &amp; Student Fees</b>	<b>*Other Expenses</b>
Sem 1 Fall	12,500	770	40
Sem 2 Spring	12,500	315	120
Sem 3 Summer	2,500	300	0
Sem 4 Fall	12,500	390	40
Sem 5 Spring	12,500	330	150
Sem 6 Summer	2,500	300	0
<b>Total Tuition</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>2,405</b>	<b>350</b>

**Explanation of Additional Expenses**

Additional Estimated Expenses	Books	University Course fee Each Semester	OT Helpdesk Fee- <u>Included in Course fee</u>	AOTA membership Dues- <u>Included in Course fee</u>	FW Software Access- <u>Included in Course fee</u>	Malpractice Insurance- <u>Not Included in course fee</u>	TB Test- <u>Not Included in course fee</u>	CPR- <u>Not Included in course fee</u>	Grad Hooding/Gown- <u>Not included in Course Fees</u>
Sem 1 Fall	600	300	130	90	290	40	0	0	0
Sem 2 Spring	600	300	0	0	0	0	60	60	0
Sem 3 Summer	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sem 4 Fall	375	300	0	90	0	40	0	0	0
Sem 5 Spring	380	300	0	0	0	0	60	0	90
Sem 6 Summer	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotals	1955	1800	130	180	290	80	120	60	90
Total Tuition	55,000								
Total Course fees	2,405								
Estimated Book cost	1,955								
Add'l Expenses	350								
Loan Fees	500								
Total Tuition & Fees	\$60,210								Revised: 12.04.25

\*Please note that Fieldwork experiences may not be local and may require additional costs for living and travel expenses that are not included in this estimate.