

LENOIR~RHYNE UNIVERSITY

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 7th Ave NE Hickory, NC and 4201 N. Main St Columbia, SC. 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 or accred@aota.org 301-652-6611. Pass rates are available at 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

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

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.

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. 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
Year One	<p>Mini session 1: OCC 506 Applied Body Structure & Function (3) OCC 506L Applied Body Structure & Function Lab (1) OCC 503 Applied Principles of OT (3) OCC 503L Applied Principles of OT Lab (1) Credit hours = 8</p> <p>Mini session 2: OCC 504 Physical Rehabilitation (3) OCC 504L Physical Rehabilitation Lab (1) OCC 514 Mental Health (3) OCC 514L Mental Health Lab (1) Credit hours = 8</p>	<p>Mini session 1: OCC 521 Advanced OT Adults (3) OCC 521L Advanced OT Adults Lab (1) OCC 524 Pediatrics (3) OCC 524L Pediatrics Lab (1) Credit hours = 8</p> <p>Mini session 2: OCC 534 Gerontology (3) OCC 534L Gerontology Lab (1) OCC 525 Adv OT Pediatrics Practice (3) OCC 525L Adv OT Pediatrics Lab (1) Credit hours = 8</p>	<p>OCC 540 Level IA (1) OCC 541 Level IB (1) OCC 542 Level IC (1) Credit hours = 3 * These clinical experiences will include areas of physical disabilities, mental health, geriatrics, and/or pediatrics. * Note that summer coursework is not covered by financial aid as it is not full-time.</p>
Total	16	16	3
Year Two	<p>Mini session 1: OCC 604 Applied OT Process (3) OCC 505 Health Systems (2) OCC 569 Professional Practice (2) OCC 650 Research I (Methods) (2) Credit hours = 9</p> <p>Mini session 2: OCC 571 FWIIA (3) <i>last 12 weeks of semester</i> Credit hours = 3</p>	<p>Mini session 1: OCC 633 Admin/Prog Devel (3) OCC 652 Research 2 (Applied) (2) OCC 602 Grand Rounds (2) Credit hours = 7</p> <p>Mini session 2: OCC 692 Leadership (2) OCC 691 Professional Reasoning (2) OCC 654 Research 3 (2) Credit hours = 6</p>	<p>OCC672 FW11B (3) Credit hours = 3 * Two 12-week full-time clinical rotations, for a total of 24 weeks, are required to graduate. * Note that summer coursework is not covered by financial aid as it is not full-time. This curriculum sequence is subject to change.</p>
Total	12	13	3

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. 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.

					Course fee					
Sem 1 Fall	600	300	130	90	290	40	0	0	0	0
Sem 2 Spring	600	300	0	0	0	0	60	60	0	0
Sem 3 Summer	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sem 4 Fall	375	300	0	90	0	40	0	0	0	0
Sem 5 Spring	380	300	0	0	0	0	60	0	90	0
Sem 6 Summer	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Subtotals	1955	1800	130	180	290	80	120	60	90	15
Total Tuition	55,000									
Total Course fees	2,405									
Estimated Book cost	1,955									
Add'l Expenses	365									
Loan Fees	500									
Total Tuition & Fees	\$60,225								Revised: 06.08.26	

*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.