

**DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
FALL 2016**

Policies related to the Occupational Therapy GPPA program

Students accepted into the occupational therapy GPPA option will have a spot reserved in the UIC Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program 4 years after enrolling as a freshman at UIC, providing the below conditions are met.

In order to maintain guaranteed professional program admission status, you must:

- Maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA (A = 4.0) at the end of each academic year prior to the term of entry into the Master of Science program, including the academic year prior to beginning the professional program. In addition, the cumulative GPA must be at least 3.5 at the end of the fall semester prior to enrollment.
- Maintain a full-time course load of 12 or more graded (A - F) credits each semester, in addition to any pass/fail or satisfactory/unsatisfactory credits.
- Earn a B or above in the prerequisite courses required for admission to the MS in Occupational Therapy program, and complete all prerequisites at UIC.
- Meet with an advisor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at least once each year.
- Membership in the Honors College at UIC is strongly recommended, but not required.

In order to be admitted into the professional program through the GPPA you must:

- Have GPPA status at the time of admission into the MS program
- Have earned a B.A. or B.S. degree at UIC by the term of entry into the professional program. GPPA students must earn a bachelor's degree with at least three full-time academic years of study.
- Complete all prerequisite course work for occupational therapy (presently 6 courses) at UIC during the first three years of baccalaureate courses with a grade of B or above. See the UIC undergraduate catalog for a listing of the required courses.
- Provide Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores to the occupational therapy program by December 1 prior to the Fall of enrollment in the professional program. Attain a score of at least 150 on the verbal section, 147 on the quantitative section, and 3.5 on the analytical writing portion of the GRE.
- Meet all occupational therapy program admission requirements that are in place for the year of entry into the professional program. *(This includes but is not limited to course prerequisites and volunteer experience requirements. **Professional admission requirements may change after you enter UIC.** You are responsible for consulting with your Department of Occupational Therapy advisor in one of your regular meetings or consulting the web site at <http://www.ahs.uic.edu/OT> to be apprised of any changes which may occur.)*
- Complete at least 100 hours of occupational therapy clinical observations, volunteer work

or work experience, with documentation as recommended by the department, while enrolled at UIC.

- Declare your intention to enter the professional Occupational Therapy program by submitting the appropriate occupational therapy application supplemental materials by December 1 prior to the fall you plan to enroll in the professional program. *Entry into the program is in fall term only.*
- By December 1, submit required application materials, including all official transcripts from schools attended, demographic information, a current resume, and a record of hours of clinical observations, volunteer work, or work experience as directed by your Department of Occupational Therapy advisor. The OTCAS application and letters of recommendation are waived for GPPA applicants that meet all above requirements.

Process to appeal for reinstatement to GPPA status:

A student whose cumulative GPA for the academic year is below 3.5 will lose their GPPA status as per the conditions specific for maintenance of GPPA status. A student who has lost GPPA status due to not meeting the GPA or GRE score minimum requirements is encouraged to apply to the OT program through the regular OTCAS admissions process.

A GPPA student who has lost GPPA status may appeal to be reinstated based on a presentation of special circumstances. A student admitted to UIC through the Department of Occupational Therapy's GPPA program whose cumulative Grade Point Average at the end of an academic year or the end of the fall semester prior to enrollment is below the required 3.5 may petition the faculty in writing to consider mitigating circumstances associated with the drop in GPA. If the faculty believes that the mitigating circumstances and the student's overall academic performance warrant special consideration, the student will be informed in writing that he or she may regain GPPA status if by the end of the following semester the student is able to bring the cumulative GPA to 3.5 or greater, and maintains all other conditions for continued GPPA status.

A GPPA student who is not able to achieve the minimum GRE standards can also appeal to be reinstated after consulting with the OT faculty advisor.

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