

# PRE-DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

St. Catherine University offers a limited number of undergraduate students a dual-degree program in the Occupational Therapy Doctorate. This program is available only to specific majors and contingent on students meeting the OTD admission requirements.

Qualifying students will complete their undergraduate major in three years. In their fourth year, while still enrolled as undergraduates, students will begin taking OTD courses and complete any remaining undergraduate requirements to earn their Bachelor's degree. In their fifth year, students will complete the OTD program while enrolled as graduate students.

There are two options for starting a dual degree (3+3) program: 1. Applying via the Guaranteed Admission Program (GAP) in high school, or 2. Declaring one of the OTD Dual Degree majors while enrolled at St. Kate's. **Both options will require students to apply to the dual-degree program by their junior year.** Please see the next tab for more information about the application process and curriculum for both options.

## Guaranteed Admission Program (Apply during senior year in High School)

**Apply on/or before February 15 of senior year.** Students will receive an admissions decision by April 1st.

ACT score of 24 or better.

High School cumulative GPA 3.2 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Declared a major in one of the following:

- B.A. Applied Science in Communication Studies (pre-OTD)
- B.S. Applied Science in Exercise Science (pre-OTD)
- B.S. Applied Science in Psychology (pre-OTD)
- B.S. Public Health: Public Policy (pre-OTD)

**GAP Pre-OT students who have met all admission and application criteria** will be given priority when they apply in their junior year, before other Dual-Degree OT applicants are considered.

**GAP students must meet all the admission criteria and submit an additional application (see dual degree process) via the Slate application in their junior year.**

## 3+3 Admission Requirements (Required for all students)

To be considered for admission, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Junior status at St. Catherine University (minimum of 60 credits completed)
- Declared a major in one of the following:
  - B.A. Applied Science in Communication Studies (pre-OTD)
  - B.S. Applied Science in Exercise Science (pre-OTD)
  - B.S. Applied Science in Psychology (pre-OTD)
  - B.S. Public Health: Public Policy (pre-OTD)

**Students who will be at senior status (90 credits completed or more) when they apply for a dual degree program** will need to petition the Graduate Admissions Office prior to applying to the dual degree program.

**Your email to the Graduate Office - [graduateadmissions@stkate.edu](mailto:graduateadmissions@stkate.edu) should include:**

- An explanatory statement (maximum 500 words) explaining why they should still be considered for the dual degree program.
- Academic plans from your Academic Advisor or TRIO Success coach that show your degree completion for the dual degree and non-dual degree track.
- Email confirmation from Financial Aid on whether you have enough remaining undergraduate aid to complete the dual degree program.

## Grade Expectations

- An undergraduate cumulative grade-point average (G.P.A.) of 3.2 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
  - Applicants with a cumulative GPA of 3.0-3.19 and a prerequisite GPA of 3.2 or higher may petition to be considered for the graduate program. Students will complete this petition during the application by uploading an essay saying why they should still be considered.
- Prerequisite coursework GPA of 3.2 or better.
  - The grade for the pre-req course must be a C or higher (Pass/Fail or S/U grading is not acceptable).
  - No more than one prereq course may be repeated, and it may be repeated only once.
  - If two or more prerequisite courses have a grade below C, the student is ineligible for the dual degree program and the entry-level OT graduate program.
  - At least five out of eight prerequisite courses must have been completed (e.g., earned a grade) before applying to the OTD program, including at least two from the sciences (A&P, stats, etc.)
  - The remaining three prerequisite courses need to be completed by the time you start the OT program.
- Prerequisite Course Requirements: Depending on your major, your OT program prerequisites will appear differently on your degree evaluation. Please see the list of prerequisites underneath the curriculum section.

## Additional Prerequisite Requirements:

- Anatomy & Physiology
  - First half and second half of a combined anatomy and physiology sequence.
  - These credits must be from an anatomy, biology, physiology, or kinesiology department.

- Encourage an in-person format. Online accepted, but not from Straighterline/Study.com/SOPHIA.
- The course must cover individual muscle functions.
- Statistics (3-4 semester credits)
  - AP Scores accepted for General Psychology & Statistics only. Applicants must submit College Board scores directly to St. Kate's.
- General psychology: (3-4 semester credits)
  - AP Scores accepted for General Psychology & Statistics only. Applicants must submit College Board scores directly to St. Kate's.
- Lifespan development psychology
  - This course must cover the entire human lifespan, from birth through late adulthood. Multiple classes can be completed to fulfill the requirement.

**To be considered for admission, applicants must meet the following application requirements:**

- Apply by clicking on this link ([https://lead-at.stkate.edu/apply/?\\_gl=1\\*q385ik\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*NzgyNDIyMjk0LjE3NDQwMzU5Mjk](https://lead-at.stkate.edu/apply/?_gl=1*q385ik*_gcl_au*NzgyNDIyMjk0LjE3NDQwMzU5Mjk)). Applications open in July before they start their junior year. The final deadline is October 1st of a student's junior year. Students will receive an admissions decision by the end of December.
- If a student is accepted into the dual-degree program, they will begin the following summer of their senior year. Example: If a student applies by October 1st, 2026, they will start the program in Summer 2027 and take a year's worth of graduate classes, provided they are accepted.
- No GRE required.
- Volunteer Hours - 50 cumulative hours in two or more settings serving vulnerable, disabled, or disadvantaged individuals or populations, and that address health, rehabilitation, disability, quality of life, and/or community issues.
- Submit Admissions Essays
  - To demonstrate written communication skills and clarify your purpose in pursuing a graduate degree in occupational therapy, submit an admission essay addressing the topics below. Topic 1 should be a maximum of 1,500 words (5-6 pages double-spaced). Topic 2 should be a maximum of 2-4 paragraphs:
    - **Topic 1:** Address why you selected OT as a career and how an occupational therapy degree relates to your immediate and long-term professional goals. Describe how your personal, educational, and professional background will help you achieve your goals. The personal essay is an essential part of your application for admission and provides you with an opportunity to clearly and effectively express your ideas.
    - **Topic 2:** Tell us how your personal qualities, experiences, and values relate to the Henrietta Schmoll School of Health's mission: "The Henrietta Schmoll School of Health educates diverse learners and engages clinical and community

partners to influence health, health systems, and health policy. The School is distinguished by an emphasis on relationship-centered care, socially responsible leadership, and interdisciplinary initiatives."

\*\* If you have already submitted the dual-degree application form, you may upload your admission essay via your Application Status page (instructions for accessing the status page were provided at the time you applied). Please include your full name at the top of the essay.

\*\*If you wish to submit the admission essay before the application, or if you are unable to upload the document to your Application Status page, you may send the admission essay as an attachment via email to [graduateadmission@stkate.edu](mailto:graduateadmission@stkate.edu) with "OTD Admission Essay" in the subject line.\*\*

- Submit Resume
  - Submit a current résumé that highlights both work and volunteer experiences (which should include the requirements in the section above) and leadership roles. The résumé should also include your education, honors and awards, skills, and activities related to your professional and volunteer experience. Please include the following:
    - Facility name and location
    - Type of work or volunteer setting
    - Position title
    - Supervisor
    - Phone number
    - Dates of employment and estimated hours
    - Five primary responsibilities and the percentage of time devoted to each
    - Type of clients (age range, disabilities, diversity of background)

\*\* If you have already submitted the Dual-Degree application form, you may upload your résumé via your Application Status page (instructions for accessing the status page were provided at the time you applied).\*\*

- Provide three recommendations - one must be a supervisor in a work, internship, or volunteer setting, and two should be professional and/or academic.
  - When you submit your application, you will provide the contact information for your recommenders, who will then be contacted to submit their letters.
- Submit transcripts
  - If you are a current St. Kate's student, you do not need to resubmit your transcripts. However, if we do not currently have transcripts on file, you will need to submit them.
- Any supporting explanatory statements, if applicable (i.e., GPA).

**Before starting the OTD program**, students must complete 87 credits. This includes all OTD prerequisites, liberal arts core requirements, and coursework in the major field of study. The curricula listed below indicates the undergraduate coursework a student must complete by the end of their junior year

Students who are admitted into the OTD program will take **graduate level coursework in their senior year**, which will count towards their undergraduate and graduate program requirements.

Students will be awarded their Bachelor's Degree at the end of their senior year after completing their year of graduate classes.

Students are encouraged to work with Academic Advising and the Financial Aid Office when planning for their senior year to ensure their eligibility for financial aid.

After completing their Bachelor's degree, students will complete any **remaining graduate level courses** to earn their Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) degree. See the end of this section for the list of courses taken in the fifth year.

**Students not admitted to the graduate program or who become ineligible to apply** will instead complete a Bachelor's Degrees in their respective majors: B.A. in Communication Studies (<https://catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/humanities-arts-sciences/communication-studies/communication-studies-ba-bs/>), B.A. in Psychology (<https://catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/humanities-arts-sciences/psychology/ba/>), B.S. in Exercise Science (<https://catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/health/exercise-science/exercise-sport-science-ba-bs/>), or B.S. in Public Health: Public Policy (<https://catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/health/public-health/ba-bs/>).

## Communication Studies

This dual-degree major is available only in the College for Women.

Students who do not gain entry into the OTD program after their junior year will have satisfied the requirements for the Communication Studies major (<https://catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/humanities-arts-sciences/communication-studies/communication-studies-ba-bs/#majorrequirementstext>), but may need additional credits to earn a B.A. degree.

### Required Prerequisite Courses (pre-OTD)

Code	Title	Credits
BIOL 2610	Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab	4
BIOL 2620	Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab	4
IPE 1020 or IPE 1030	Medical Terminology Healthcare Teams Foundations and Medical Terminology	1
PSYC 1000 or PSYC 1001	General Psychology General Psychology with Lab	4
PSYC 2025	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
PSYC 3010	Understanding Psychological Disorders	4
SOCI 1000 or SOCI 2300 or SOCI 3250	Principles and Concepts of Sociology Sociology of Health and Medicine Cultural Anthropology	4
Select one from the following:		4

ECON 1090	Statistical Analysis for Decision Making
HLTH 1090	Biostatistics
PSYC 1090	Statistical Methods in Psychology
STAT 1089	Statistical Analysis with Corequisite
STAT 1090	Statistical Analysis

**Total Credits** 29

### Communication Studies Courses

Code	Title	Credits
COMM 1000W	Communication Strategies for Social Justice	4
COMM 1030	Speaking to Lead and Influence	4
COMM 2050	Media, Culture and Society	4
COMM 3070W	Gender and Rhetoric	4
COMM 3100	Communicating across Cultures, Identities and Differences	4
COMM 4600	Leadership and the Art of Persuasion	4
COMM 4850	Senior Seminar	4
One additional 4000-level course		4

**Total Credits** 32

## Exercise and Sport Science

This dual-degree major is available only in the College for Women.

Students who do not gain entry into the OTD program after their junior year complete the remaining course requirements for the B.S. in Exercise and Sport Science (<https://catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/health/exercise-science/exercise-sport-science-ba-bs/#majorrequirementstext>)

### Required Prerequisite Courses (pre-OTD)

Code	Title	Credits
BIOL 2610	Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab	4
BIOL 2620	Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab	4
IPE 1020 or IPE 1030	Medical Terminology Healthcare Teams Foundations and Medical Terminology	1
PSYC 1001 or PSYC 1000	General Psychology with Lab General Psychology	4
PSYC 2025	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
PSYC 3010	Understanding Psychological Disorders	4
SOCI 1000 or SOCI 2300 or SOCI 3250	Principles and Concepts of Sociology Sociology of Health and Medicine Cultural Anthropology	4
Select one from the following:		4
ECON 1080	Statistical Analysis for the Social Sciences	
ECON 1090	Statistical Analysis for Decision Making	
HLTH 1090	Biostatistics	
PSYC 1090	Statistical Methods in Psychology	
STAT 1089	Statistical Analysis with Corequisite	
STAT 1090	Statistical Analysis	

**Total Credits** 29

**Exercise Science Courses**

Code	Title	Credits
EXSS 2660	Introduction to Exercise and Sport Science	4
EXSS 2800W	Introduction to Research Methods in Exercise Science	4
EXSS 3200	Health Behavior Psychology (Only required for students who enter St. Catherine University Fall 2017 or later)	4
EXSS 3350	Kinesiology and Biomechanics with Lab	4
EXSS 3450	Exercise Physiology with Lab	4
EXSS 3550	Exercise Testing and Prescription with Lab	4
EXSS 3615	Motor Learning and Motor Control	4
EXSS 3750	Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries	2
IPE 4200W	Healthcare Teams - Evidence-Based Practice	4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>34</b>

**Psychology**

This dual-degree major is available only in the College for Women.

Students who do not gain entry into the OTD program after their junior year complete the remaining course requirements for the B.A. in Psychology (<https://catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/humanities-arts-sciences/psychology/ba/#newforfall2017cfwonlytext>).

**Required Prerequisite Courses (pre-OTD)**

Code	Title	Credits
BIOL 2610	Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab	4
BIOL 2620	Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab	4
IPE 1020 or IPE 1030	Medical Terminology Healthcare Teams Foundations and Medical Terminology	1
SOCI 1000 or SOCI 2300 or SOCI 3250	Principles and Concepts of Sociology Sociology of Health and Medicine Cultural Anthropology	4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>13</b>

**Psychology Courses**

Code	Title	Credits
PSYC 1001 or PSYC 1000	General Psychology with Lab <sup>1</sup> General Psychology	4
PSYC 1090	Statistical Methods in Psychology <sup>1</sup>	4
PSYC 2025	Lifespan Developmental Psychology <sup>1</sup>	4
PSYC 3000	Research Methods in Psychology	4
PSYC 3010	Understanding Psychological Disorders <sup>1</sup>	4
PSYC 3XXX or 4XXX	Elective	4
PSYC 4220W	History and Systems	4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>28</b>

<sup>1</sup> Also meets prerequisite requirement for OTD program.

**Public Health: Public Policy**

This dual-degree major is available only in the College for Women.

Students who do not gain entry into the OTD program after their junior year complete the remaining course requirements for the B.S. in Public Health: Public Policy (<https://catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/health/public-health/ba-bs/#newforfall2021text>)

**Required Prerequisite Courses (pre-OTD)**

Code	Title	Credits
IPE 1020 or IPE 1030	Medical Terminology Healthcare Teams Foundations and Medical Terminology	1
PSYC 1001 or PSYC 1000	General Psychology with Lab General Psychology	4
PSYC 2025	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
PSYC 3010	Understanding Psychological Disorders	4
SOCI 1000 or SOCI 2300 or SOCI 3250	Principles and Concepts of Sociology Sociology of Health and Medicine Cultural Anthropology	4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>17</b>

**Public Health: Public Policy Courses**

Code	Title	Credits
HLTH 1090	Biostatistics <sup>1</sup>	4
HLTH 2050	Foundations in Public Health	4
HLTH 3150	Epidemiology	4
HLTH 3250 or HLTH 3210	Global Health Health Communications	4
HLTH 3350	Environmental Health	4
HLTH 4700	Practicum Preparation	2
HLTH 4754	Practicum	4
HLTH 4800W	Senior Seminar in Public Health	4
BIOL 2610 & BIOL 2620	Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab and Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab <sup>1</sup>	8
MGMT 3850 or ECON 3250	Healthcare Policy Healthcare Economics	4
PSYC 2025	Lifespan Developmental Psychology <sup>1</sup>	4
PSYC 3010	Understanding Psychological Disorders <sup>1</sup>	4
	One course related to the legal, economic and communication dimensions of health	4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>54</b>

<sup>1</sup> Also meets prerequisite requirement for OTD program.

**GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN SENIOR YEAR**

Code	Title	Credits
OCTH 5010	Human Occupation	3
OCTH 5200	Mental and Behavioral Health	3
OCTH 5410	Children, Adolescents, and Families	3

OCTH 5500	Neuroscience	3
OCTH 5600	Kinesiology for Rehabilitation	3
OCTH 6000	Foundational Skills for Occupational Therapy Practice	3
OCTH 6010	Seminar A: Entering the Profession	1
OCTH 6020	Seminar B and Level I Fieldwork - Psychological and Social Factors Impacting Performance	1
IPE 7000	Evidence Based Practice: Interprofessional Perspectives and Competencies	3
OCTH 6410	Foundations of Research	3
OCTH 6610	Rehabilitation Concepts	3
OCTH 6700	Older Adults in Context	3
OCTH 7900	Doctoral Orientation Camp	1
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>33</b>

## GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN AFTER BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Code	Title	Credits
OCTH 5210	Mental and Behavioral Health: The OT Process	3
OCTH 5450	Children, Adolescents, and Families: The OT Process	3
OCTH 5560	Participation and Technology	3
OCTH 6030	Seminar C and Level I Fieldwork Practice Reflection	1
OCTH 6040	Seminar D: Readiness for Level II Fieldwork	1
OCTH 6060	Physical Assessment and Intervention Planning	3
OCTH 6615	Rehabilitation Practices	3
OCTH 6620	Ethical Management	3
OCTH 6710	Older Adults - The OT Process	3
OCTH 7100	Social Determinants of Health	1
OCTH 7200	Critical Issues	1
OCTH 7700	Level II Fieldwork	5
OCTH 7710	Level II Fieldwork	5
OCTH 8005	Essential Knowledge and Competencies for Leadership	3
OCTH 8010	Evolution of Ideas in Occupational Therapy	3
OCTH 8020	Educational Methods	3
OCTH 8030	Program Evaluation	3
OCTH 8040	Organizations and Systems	3
OCTH 8050	Advanced Practice	3
OCTH 8060	Scoping Review Project	3
OCTH 8080	Doctoral Capstone Project Proposal	1
OCTH 8100	Doctoral Capstone Experience A	3
OCTH 8150	Doctoral Capstone Experience B	3
OCTH 8250	Doctoral Capstone Project	3
OCTH 8300	Doctoral Capstone Footprint	1
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>67</b>