

School of Graduate Studies & Research

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Frequently Asked Questions



UNIVERSITY of the
SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN



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TO REQUEST OUR FULL
INFOMORMATION GUIDE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

USC MSOT

WHERE CAN I OBSERVE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS WORKING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO?

You may find the list and contact information for registered occupational therapists on the website of the Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapy Association. www.ttota.com. There is also a Facebook page for TTOTA under Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapists. Overseas applicants may find contacts for Caribbean occupational therapists through the Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists www.caribbeanot.com. There is also a Facebook page under Association of Caribbean Occupational Therapists.

IS THIS MSOT PROGRAMME ACCREDITED?

The MSOT at USC was approved by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists on March 7th 2016. WFOT approval is granted for five years and will be reviewed in 2021. The MSOT was also approved by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) in December 2015. The Council for Professions Related to Medicine also recognized the program in May, 2020 and as such our graduate are eligible to apply for registration to practice in Trinidad & Tobago upon completion of their studies. Program accreditation is a lengthy process that requires that the program be well on the way before the process can be completed. Being a relatively new program, the university continues its efforts to work along with all governing institutions to ensure this is done at the appointed time.

IS THE PROGRAMME GATE APPROVED?

The MSOT was submitted for GATE approval but had NOT yet been approved for funding before the government of Trinidad & Tobago discontinued GATE funding for all graduate degrees.

HOW MUCH DOES THIS PROGRAMME COST?

Tuition and fees for the entire MSOT programme (eight semesters - 67 credits) is approximately TT\$146,000. This does not include the cost of accommodation, board, books, and other items such as laptop and polo shirts. Travel to and accommodation for Fieldwork is the responsibility of the student.

ARE THERE ANY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NATIONALS AND OR CARICOM STUDENTS?

Information on scholarships can be found on the USC website and at www.scholarships.gov.tt
Some of our past students have been applied and been awarded the Rosemary Green Bursary which is a \$10,000 TTD scholarship, awarded annually to a Trinidad and Tobago National in an Entry Level Occupational Therapy degree programme, renewable for one follow up year at \$5000. The award is for a candidate demonstrating a high GPA and a commitment of working within Trinidad and Tobago after graduation with the goal of contributing to the medical, social and educational services available in the country. The Trinidad & Tobago Occupational Therapy Association manages this bursary award.

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IS THE PROGRAMME FULL-TIME? ARE CLASSES OFFERED AT NIGHT AND/OR ON WEEKENDS?

The programme is offered full-time only with some classes and internships running throughout the day. Classes that are face to face are run on the USC campus and may be offered at any time between Monday to Thursdays during the day and on Fridays until 12 noon. Some of our practical courses are offered face to face and others online or a mix of the two (blended). Although we try to limit the amount of days required to two days per week for synchronous/face to face classes, the workload is a full time workload and will require significant time outside of the classroom as well. Additionally, Fieldwork I and II are considered the bridge to professional practice Master of Science in Occupational Therapy and requires the student to work along with a registered OT clinical instructor on a full time basis in order to complete the required hours. This is subject to the clinical instructor's work schedule and the student needs to be available to attend based on that schedule. It is unadvisable to maintain a full time work schedule while enrolled in the program.

DO I HAVE TO HAVE ALL THE PREREQUISITE COURSES? DO THEY HAVE TO BE TAKEN MORE RECENTLY THAN 10 YEARS?

Yes, all the listed prerequisite courses are required and they must have been taken within the last 10 years. The material covered in these life-science prerequisite courses is foundational knowledge and will not be repeated within the courses of the MSOT. While we encourage students with a diversity of academic backgrounds to apply to the program, these foundational courses are necessary to give all students an equal chance of success in the more advanced courses that build on this knowledge base. There will be consideration given to allow one (1) co-requisite course taken only during the first semester.

WHERE CAN I GET THE COURSE MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY?

Medical Terminology may be taken at any approved tertiary institutions or online. We will accept the following online course:
Comprehensive Medical Terminology (3.3 credits)
Certificate upon completion.
You may find it at <Universalclass.com>

WILL THERE BE A UNIFORM FOR MSOT STUDENTS?

No, there is no uniform for regular classes, but the standard USC campus dress code will apply. However, while MSOT students are on Fieldwork or Service Learning Placements they will be required to purchase and wear the placement uniform, which is a MSOT polo shirt and khakis. It is understood that some placement sites may also have their own additional requirements appropriate to the clinical nature of the site.

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IS THIS PROGRAMME RECOGNIZED IN THE US AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL LOCATIONS?

The MSOT at USC was designed primarily for the Caribbean context, however the curriculum was developed using the learning objectives and programme outcomes outlined by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists towards achieving entry-level competency. Thus our standards are comparable and in some instances exceed the global requirements for entry-level practice. Each country has it's own guidelines for accepting foreign trained professionals and you would need to review the requirements for the country you are intending to practice. According to Act 35 of the laws of Trinidad & Tobago, the Council for Professions Related to Medicine approves and oversees all allied health professionals practicing in Trinidad & Tobago under the relevant boards. Our graduates are eligible to register with the Occupational Therapy & Speech Language Pathology Board to practice as an occupational therapist in Trinidad & Tobago. Being an international programme, it is not a US-accredited program. However, after you have been registered to practice within the jurisdiction of your study, there are guidelines outlined by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (USA) that allow internationally trained OTs to apply for eligibility to sit the NBCOT exam towards board certification to practice in the US. This does not guarantee eligibility to practice in the US as each application is subject to review based on their established criteria, The criteria for this application is outlined via their website <https://www.nbcot.org/Students/get-certified>.

DO YOU HAVE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MATURE ENTRY INTO THE MSOT PROGRAM?

Currently, there are no approved alternate/mature entry pathways available to the MSOT program, however the department is reviewing solutions for possible future applications.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT HOUSING OPTIONS?

Information on Housing can be found on the USC website and through the Student Development and Services Department.

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WHERE WILL THE FIELDWORK PLACEMENTS (FW) BE CARRIED OUT? WHO WILL BE THE FW PRECEPTORS?

Fieldwork Level I starts from the second semester of the programme and lasts for one week fulltime (40 hours). The placements sites will be in Trinidad and Tobago under direct supervision of registered occupational therapists who have had at least one-year experience practicing. Students will go on Level I placement in groups of two or three.

There are two Level II Fieldwork placements, which start in the second year and are 12-15 weeks long. The supervision model will be direct supervision by an OT and mixed (direct and distant) supervision by an OT. Where appropriate and feasible, international placements will be facilitated in the later placements to enhance student learning and preparation for intended practice contexts.





We are waiting to learn with you ... VISIT USC.EDU.TT TO APPLY TODAY!