

Application Resources Occupational Therapy

- The American Occupational Therapy Association:** <http://www.aota.org/>
- Instructions and FAQs:** <https://portal.otcas.org/otcasHelpPages/instructions/>
- Program Directory:** Research specific schools to select ones that are a good match for you. <http://www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Find-School.aspx>
- OTCAS Application:** The 2017-18 application cycle opens in July. The cost for the OTCAS application is \$140 to apply to one program, and \$60 per additional program. <https://otcas.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>
- Fee Assistance:** A limited number of fee waivers are available through OTCAS' Fee Assistance Program, and are worth \$140 each.. Submit request for assistant BEFORE submitting application. See instruction manual for details.
- Social media:** Follow OTCAS for updates and tips <https://www.facebook.com/OTCASApp/> and <https://twitter.com/OTCASApp>
- Graduate Records Exam:** <https://www.ets.org/gre/> The GRE is offered as a computer-delivered test year round at ETS testing centers around the world. You must register at least 2 business days before your preferred test date. Appointments/seats granted on a first-registered, first served basis. The fee is \$205. Scores are available and reported to designated recipients 10-15 days after testing. Some individual programs will accept MCAT scores in addition to or in lieu of the GRE.
- Transcripts:** Order your transcripts in person or online through the Office of the Registrar (<http://registrar.illinois.edu/transcripts>). Submit your transcript request form(s) the same day that you place your order. Make sure that you hold the order until spring grades are available. Generally, transcripts must be ordered from the institution where the course was taken, whether or not the courses transferred to your Illinois transcript.
- Potential letter writers:** Schedule a meeting with them to provide them with information about you (resume, personal statement, etc.) Make sure to tell them they will receive an e-mail from the application service to complete their evaluation. You may also want to provide your letter writers with resources on what to include in their letter. Letters are sent through OTCAS. Students can have up to 5 individual letters.
- Letters:** Consider using Interfolio as a letter storage service www.interfolio.com/products/dossier/



Application Tips

- Verification:** After you submit your application, monitor your status in OTCAS. Once OTCAS has received your completed application, your transcripts, and your payment, you will then enter the verification process. During verification, CASPA staff review your materials and calculate your GPA. You will receive email confirmation when verification is completed. This can take up to 4 –6 weeks.
- Supplemental materials/applications:** Some individual programs may ask you to complete additional essays or submit additional materials. *Make sure to answer the additional questions asked* and submit required items (such as resumes, licenses, military papers, or finalized transcripts). Secondary applications are often how admissions committees will distinguish which applicants have researched their programs, and how well they can communicate—beyond what has already been shared. A prolonged secondary applications can have an impact, especially with schools that have a rolling admissions process.
- Coursework:** Use your academic history or unofficial transcript. Do not use DARS. Classify courses based on the *content* of the course.
- Proofread your entire application.** Print out a hard copy and review it for any errors or omissions.
- Demonstrate professionalism:** Your qualifications as an applicant are not solely based on official application materials—communication via email, over the phone, on interview day (even during informal interactions) can be a part of your evaluation as an applicant.
- Continue your preparation:** Keep your motivation going by continuing to be involved inside and outside of the classroom. This will allow you to have more to share in secondary essays, interviews, letters of update, or possibly in a reapplication. Keep in contact with your letter writers—they'll want to know how you're doing, and this will help them if you need updated letters for any reason.

Health Professions Advising & Services

- April is Application Month:** Attend these workshops to learn more about the application process. We even help you write a personal statement. Visit www.careercenter.illinois.edu for calendar of events.
- Personal Statement Reviews:** Submit your personal statement online to be reviewed. www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/personal-statement-reviews
- Health Professions Advisors:** HP Advisors are available, even over summer, to assist you throughout the application process. Schedule a 30 minute appointment or visit us during Health Professions Advising Drop In Hours. www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/health-professions-advising