

**DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
MARCH 2007**

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. Please note that the Bachelor of Science degree in occupational therapy is no longer offered at UIC.

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.
- 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.
- 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 entry into the M.S. program
- have earned a B.A. or B.S. degree 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) during the first three years of baccalaureate courses. See the UIC undergraduate catalog for a listing of the required courses.
- take all prerequisite course work for occupational therapy at UIC.
- 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.)*
- have completed at least 100 hours of occupational therapy clinical observations, with documentation as recommended by the department.
- 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.*

- take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) by December 1 prior to the fall of enrollment in the professional program if you want full consideration for assistantships and fellowships. This is recommended but optional, and is used for data collection purposes only. The score will not affect the GPPA admission decision.

Process to appeal for reinstatement to GPPA status:

Those students 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 GPPA student who has lost GPPA status may appeal to be reinstated based on a presentation of special circumstances.

Any student admitted to UIC through the Department Of Occupational Therapy's Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions whose cumulative Grade Point Average in an academic year falls below the required 3.5 as of the end of Spring Semester 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 Fall semester the student is able to bring the cumulative GPA to 3.5 or greater, and maintains all other conditions for continued GPPA status.

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