



DOWNSTATE
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

POST-PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DOCTORATE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is a Post-Professional OTD (PP-OTD)?

A PP-OTD is a practice-oriented terminal degree that prepares practitioners for advanced and specialized areas in occupational therapy. It differs from entry-level OTD programs as PP-OTD students have already earned a master's degree in occupational therapy and passed the NBCOT certification exam to become practicing occupational therapists.

Our program is 33-credits that consists of 6 core course, 3 elective course, and 2 capstone courses that help students further their knowledge and ability to improve client outcomes; lead collaborative teams; strengthen proficiencies in evidence-based practice and research; and develop and evaluate community-based and rehabilitation programs. More information on the PP-OTD curriculum can be found [here](#).

Q: What are the admission requirements for the PP-OTD?

We review applicants holistically. We want to get to know you and all the ways you can contribute to Downstate and the professional community. We look for applicants that prioritize quality, client-centered care and seek to improve the lives of our globally diverse communities. The admission committee reviews applications that meet the following minimum criteria:

- A master's degree in occupational Therapy from a college or university institutionally accredited and recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)
- Current National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapists (NBCOT) registration
- Current license to practice as an occupational therapist in a US jurisdiction
- A minimum of 1 year of practice experience at the time of start in the program
- A resume/curriculum vitae
- Two professional recommendations (from a professor and/or a supervisor at a place of employment)
- A statement of purpose and goals

Q: Where can I find tuition information?

Information on tuitions and fees can be found [here](#) on Downstate's website under School of Health Professions: Doctorate Program. Tuition is the standard rate for SUNY doctoral programs. Tuition and fees are subject to change without prior notice based on approval by the State University of New York Board of Trustees.

Q: How long will it take to complete the program?

The length of study will vary with each student, depending on how many courses are taken each semester. It is recommended that students take at least 2 courses (6 credits) a semester. In this case, it will take approximately 6 semesters.

For Downstate OT alumni only: *With the 9-transfer credit benefit, the length of study can be reduced to as little as 5 semesters, or about 18 months.*

Q: Why should I get my PP-OTD at SUNY Downstate?

Our PP-OTD program will prepare you for the next phase in your professional career - whether that be as a practice specialist, an educator, a manager, or a community advocate. Some key features of our program include:

- **100% Online:** Study full- or part-time in a flexible environment designed to prepare graduates with the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in a competitive job market.
- **Specialization Tracks:** Refine your practice with a focus on Occupational Therapy for Children and Families or Occupational Therapy for Adults with Disability or Chronic Diseases.
- **Expert Faculty:** Learn from and collaborate with locally and nationally renowned faculty members who are committed to providing the highest quality education and mentorship.
- **The Downstate Experience:** Take advantage of rich educational opportunities in one of the world's most diverse communities who's mission is to advance equity in urban and immigrant health. You will have access to all of Downstate's educational support services and professional development opportunities.

Q: Are there any residency requirements?

No. The PP-OTD program is 100% online.

You are invited to SUNY Downstate in Brooklyn, NY for orientation and graduation. You will also be invited to attend special networking and professional development events on-campus professional development. However, attendance is optional.

Q: Is the PP-OTD program accredited by ACOTE?

Unlike entry-level OTD programs, ACOTE does not regulate PP-OTD programs. Downstate's PP-OTD program has been approved and is registered as a doctoral degree program with New York State Education Department (NYSED).

Q: Can I work while in the PP-OTD program?

Yes. Our PP-OTD program is designed so that you can keep working and progress in the program at a reasonable pace. You are also encouraged to identify problems of practice in your workplace and use it as inspiration for your capstone project.

Q: When does the program start?

Apply anytime to start in Fall 2024 semester. The priority application deadline is April 15 for fall enrollment. Applications received after the deadline will be considered on a space available basis.

Q: Who can I reach out with additional questions?

Please email Admissions@downstate.edu and Occupational Therapy Program Chair, EfeKona Nuwere, Ed.D, [OTR/L at efekona.nuwere@downstate.edu](mailto:OTR/L@efekona.nuwere@downstate.edu)