FAQ’s

What is OT? In its simplest terms, occupational therapists help people across the lifespan participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). Occupational therapists (OT’s) work with people of all ages who need specialized assistance to lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives due to physical, developmental, social, or emotional problems. Occupational therapists use the “occupations” of self-care, work, and play/leisure activities to increase independence, enhance development, and/or prevent disability. To achieve these goals occupational therapists may also adapt the task or the environment. The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) identifies six practice areas: Children and Youth, Health and Wellness, Mental Health, Productive Aging, Rehabilitation, Disability, and Participation, and Work and Industry. In depth descriptions of how OT’s work with these populations can be found on the AOTA website.

The United State Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statics provides the following quick facts for Occupational Therapists (http://stats.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Occupational-therapists.htm):

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2012 Median Pay</th>
<th>$75,400 per year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry-level Education</td>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Jobs, 2012</td>
<td>113,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job Outlook, 2012-20</td>
<td>29% (Much faster than average)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employment Change, 2010-20</td>
<td>32,800</td>
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Where can I find more information about OT?

https://portal.otcas.org/otcasHelpPages/frequently-asked-questions/
http://www.aota.org/About-Occupational-Therapy/Professionals.aspx

Is there a certification exam upon completion of the program?
Yes, graduates will sit for the NBCOT (National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapists) exam. When a graduate passes the examination, they qualify to obtain a permanent license in the state they intend to or are practicing in on a temporary license.

How does the accreditation process work? There are 3 steps to becoming an accredited program with ACOTE - Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. Carroll is currently in step one of this process – seeking Candidacy status. Once candidacy status is granted, we may admit our first class.

When will the program begin? Updates will be available in early May.

What will the application process entail?
We plan to utilize OTCAS as well as a Carroll University Supplemental Application. OTCAS is a Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy programs. https://portal.otcas.org/

What will make Carroll’s OT program unique? Carroll’s OT program will draw from its rich heritage in the liberal arts and success in the health sciences. The program includes a unique 3 course sequence in the medical humanities, multiple service learning courses working with underserved populations, and a focus on inter-professional healthcare practice.
How many students do you plan to enroll? 30

What will the prerequisites be? One semester each:

- Anatomy
- Physiology (or 2 semesters combined anatomy and physiology)
- Introductory Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Lifespan Psychology
- Introductory Sociology or Cultural Anthropology
- Statistics

Timeline for Admission
The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) convened in December and voted to defer action on Candidacy Status until further information is received regarding the program’s potential to meet the 2011 ACOTE Standards. Therefore, Carroll University welcomes the opportunity to continue to enhance our MOT program and we remain committed to doing so. Updates will be available early May regarding a potential fall 2015 start.

Required Application Materials:
- Verified OTCAS application. The following materials must be submitted to OTCAS:
  - Official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions
  - Three letters of reference - suggested authors include a college instructor, a supervisor and an occupational therapist
  - List of coursework in progress
  - Volunteer/Observation hours in an OT setting - 40 hours suggested
  - Personal Essay
- Carroll University MOT Program Supplemental Application and $25.00 Application Fee
- GRE Score Report sent to Carroll University via ETS Institution Code #1101 and Department Code #0618

Other Admission Guidelines:
- A cumulative and a professional grade point average of 3.0 are suggested
- Students with a Carroll undergraduate degree receive a calculated advantage in the admissions process.
- Candidates will be allowed to have prerequisite courses pending at the time of application.
- GPA’s will be calculated at the time of application
- The Carroll University MOT program will not accept transfer students or transfer credits for any required courses in Occupational Therapy. Student accepted into the program must complete all required occupational therapy courses. Advanced placement will not be granted for any reason, including prior academic studies or professional experience.
- The program considers all qualified applicants without discrimination regardless of race, color, creed, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national or ethnic origin, or handicap that does not interfere with the performance of professional occupational therapy practice as provided by law.

What will the cost of the program be? The estimated cost of tuition for the 2 year program will be $59,075* plus a $500/semester program fee for the first 4 semesters of the program. Additional expenses include textbooks, personal and living expenses. *Please note that new tuition and fee amounts are finalized each year, therefore final two year tuition costs and fees are yet to be established by the Carroll University Board of Trustees and are subject to change.

Will financial aid be available? Graduate student financial aid is available in the form of loan; Government guaranteed loans (Unsubsidized and Graduate Plus) and private loans. Students who file the FAFSA are eligible to receive government loans regardless of their economic situation. Graduate students can borrow up to $20,500 each year in the Federal Unsubsidized Loan program (or up to their cost of attendance, whichever is lower). Private loans are student loans that might require a co-signer and are taken out through a bank.