

# Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy Admission FAQs

0325

## APPLICATION PROCESS

**When should I have my materials in to OTCAS in order to meet Chatham's application deadline?**

Applications should be e-submitted to OTCAS and will be accepted on a rolling basis until the class is filled. It is highly recommended that you submit your application to OTCAS as early as possible to ensure that your application is fully processed and verified. OTCAS verification involves some processing time, so it is in your best interest to submit all materials as early as possible to ensure your complete, verified application is available for us to review.

**What are the interviews and when are they conducted?**

The initial interview session is typically in September. More interview sessions may take place to accommodate the rolling admission cycle. The session includes an introduction, overview of the program, the official oral interview, and an opportunity to talk to current students in the program. Interviews are by invitation only.

**Is there a supplemental application for Chatham's ELOTD program in addition to the OTCAS application?**

No, Chatham does not require a supplemental application. All documents, including transcripts, must be sent to OTCAS.

**Do I have to take the GRE?**

No, you do not need to take the GRE. Please keep in mind that Chatham does evaluate the whole application as well as the results of the interview.

**Will you review my application before it is completed?**

An application will not be reviewed by the ELOTD program until it is a complete, verified application by OTCAS. It is your responsibility to contact OTCAS directly to verify receipt of application materials as well as the current status of your application.

## PREREQUISITES

**Do I need to have all of the prerequisites complete in order to apply?**

No, you may have prerequisite courses still in progress; however, applicants need to have completed three of the five prerequisite courses, and at least one of those courses must be human anatomy with lab or physiology with lab or anatomy & physiology I with lab, in order to be considered for invite to an interview. All prerequisites must be completed prior to matriculation if admitted into the program.

**May I take prerequisite courses at a community college?**

Yes, you may take or retake prerequisites at a community college or any other accredited school. Online courses are also permitted. If you are unsure whether courses meet our criteria and have a course description, you may e-mail it to Chatham's Office of Graduate Admissions at [graduate@chatham.edu](mailto:graduate@chatham.edu).

**If I have retaken a prerequisite class, does Chatham look at the higher grade or the average of both?**

Chatham takes the better grade for your prerequisite GPA; OTCAS uses both grades for the overall GPA.

**How long are prerequisite courses acceptable?**

Chatham will not accept a course that is more than ten years old to fulfill a prerequisite.

## ONCE ADMITTED

**If I am admitted, how do I secure my seat in the program?**

There is a financial commitment of a non-refundable deposit of \$800 to secure a seat.

**Can I transfer credits to reduce the number of courses I must take?**

Because of the integrated nature of the program, no advanced standing, transfer of credits, or credit for experiential learning is granted. Each class is an integral part of the academic experience and is necessary for a complete education.

**When do classes start?**

Chatham's ELOTD program is a cohort that commences each year at the end of August.



### Can the program be done as a part-time student?

Chatham's ELOTD program is completed as a full-time, cohort program only. All students complete their course of study in 28 months (seven terms). The program begins in the fall (August) and classes graduate in December after completion of the program.

### Do I need to purchase a laptop for the program?

Each student will be required to have a laptop computer. Specifications will be provided to admitted students.

### Is University housing available to ELOTD students?

Center Avenue Suites is Chatham University's Healthcare Living and Learning Community (LLC) at UPMC Shadyside for graduate students in the College of Health Sciences and advanced-level undergraduate health science students.

In partnership with UPMC, the goal of this community is to provide enrichment opportunities that transcend the various degrees within the School of Health Sciences and to create an intentional sense of shared community among students living in Center Avenue Suites. The building provides students with space to engage socially and academically with their peers.

## APPLICANT PROFILE

**How many applicants does Chatham receive for the ELOTD program and how many seats are available per incoming class?**

Last year, Chatham had 126 completed applications for 32 seats.

### What is the profile of a successful applicant?

On average, admitted applicants have an overall GPA of 3.48 and a prerequisite GPA of 3.5

**What can I do to make myself a competitive candidate for the ELOTD program at Chatham?**

- Exceed Chatham's overall and prerequisite GPA minimum requirements. The admitted student profile can be viewed at [chatham.edu/ot](http://chatham.edu/ot)
- Shadow, volunteer, or work in an OT setting
- Understand the role of an OT and be able to articulate your understanding as related to your personal, academic, and professional strengths and goals
- Brush up on your writing skills and submit a strong personal statement with your application

## WHAT MAKES CHATHAM'S ELOTD PROGRAM UNIQUE

1. Strong alumni and international connections, providing numerous options for fieldwork and capstone experiences
2. A distinguished 31-year legacy of excellence in OT education
3. One of the fastest degree-to-market ELOTD programs, with just 99 credits over seven terms
4. A structured leadership ladder that guides learners through instructor-led and student-self-selected leadership activities to build their professional identity
5. A multi-tiered system of advising support that prioritizes students' health, well-being, and academic success
6. Innovative course scheduling and delivery methods to enhance the student experience and promote learning
7. An emphasis on competency-based education, providing extensive hands-on practice of entry-level clinical skills
8. Advanced elective courses to enhance students' marketability in the job market
9. Proven success in securing grant funding to expand student training opportunities and capstone stipends

### What is the job market for OTs?

OT has been ranked the #8 Best Healthcare Job by *U.S. News & World Report* for 2025.

## LOCATION

Chatham is uniquely situated on a 39-acre campus in Shadyside that is designated as an arboretum, providing a serene environment in the center of a thriving urban educational and medical center in the east end of Pittsburgh. The ELOTD program is housed at Chatham Eastside, a "green LEED-rated" facility located at the intersection of Penn and Fifth avenues, just a few blocks from the Shadyside location.

## LEARN MORE

- Attend a graduate open house to connect with ELOTD faculty and current students. Register at [chatham.edu/gradopenhouse](http://chatham.edu/gradopenhouse)
- For admissions questions, contact the Office of Graduate Admission at 412-365-1825 or e-mail [graduate@chatham.edu](mailto:graduate@chatham.edu)
- For information about Centre Avenue Suites, contact the Office of Residence Life at 412-365-1518 or [reslife@chatham.edu](mailto:reslife@chatham.edu)