

RUSH UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DOCTORATE PROGRAM

INFORMATION PACKET



Excellence is just the beginning.



@rush\_otd\_2be



OT\_admissions@rush.edu

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Dear Interested Applicant:

I want to thank you for your interest in the RUSH University entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy program (OTD). Our program is approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and has received full accreditation status from the Accreditation Council in Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

The faculty is fully committed to the entry-level OTD program as they believe it supports the RUSH tradition of innovation and excellence, resulting in graduates who are excellent clinicians who advance the profession of occupational therapy. We proudly announce that the **U.S. News & World Report** has ranked the RUSH OTD program #19 among all occupational therapy (OT) programs in the country, placing it within the **top 4%** of all OT programs nationally. The OTD curriculum encompasses the many strengths that RUSH is known for, including innovative academic-clinical partnerships, clinical immersion throughout the curriculum, excellence in education practices, and dedication to serving our diverse community. At RUSH, we provide an educational experience built around a teacher-practitioner model to train the next generation of occupational therapists while promoting a research environment that goes hand in hand with clinical excellence.

We are fortunate to be partners with RUSH University Medical Center. RUSH was recently ranked number 3rd out of 107 U.S. academic medical centers for excellence in delivering high-quality care and named among the nation's best on the U.S. News and World Report Best Hospitals Honor Roll. The medical center has also been recognized as a leader in LGBTQ healthcare equality and named one of the best places to work for disability and inclusion. This drive for excellence is seen in everything we do at the university and medical center, including education, practice, research, and service.

The university and medical center are committed to health equity. As part of this initiative, RUSH students have the opportunity to provide services in the community through the Student Occupational Therapy Association, RUSH Occupational Therapists in Action, RUCaring, and RUSH Community Initiatives Program (RCSIP).

The enclosed information packet includes information about our entry-level OTD and our program's current and past accomplishments. At RUSH University, we have been successfully preparing entry-level occupational therapists for over 30 years through our entry-level master's program and now our entry-level OTD curriculum.

As you continue the application process, I hope you consider RUSH. Our dedicated faculty is passionate about the profession and preparing the next generation of occupational therapists. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Becky Ozelie, DHS, OTR/L, FAOTA  
Chair & Program Director



# RUSH University Medical Center

Choosing a graduate school is an important decision. Applicants are encouraged to find an educational institution that aligns with their personal values. RUSH University System for Health (RUSH) is an academic health system whose **mission** is to **improve the health of the individuals and diverse communities it serves** through the integration of outstanding patient care, education, research, and community partnerships. RUSH comprises RUSH University Medical Center, RUSH University, RUSH Copley Medical Center, RUSH Oak Park Hospital, and numerous outpatient care facilities. With more than 2,500 students, RUSH University is a health sciences university comprising RUSH Medical College, the College of Nursing, the College of Health Sciences, and the Graduate College.

## Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to Rush's culture of excellence

We strive to create a learning community where students, faculty, and staff of all backgrounds feel welcome and supported and have the opportunity to share their own experiences. At RUSH University, we are committed to establishing a climate that:

- Honors and respects our differences
- Delivers fair treatment and equitable access to care, opportunities, and resources for patients, staff, students and faculty
- Actively engages and partners with RUSH's internal and external communities as leaders and decision-makers in the work
- Advances racial justice and equity by dismantling barriers, righting injustices, being actively anti-racist, and promoting equity in health care, in learning, in research, and in our communities across the RUSH system

At RUSH we understand that increasing health equity and achieving true inclusion means building medical education programs and a healthcare workforce that reflects the makeup of the community: At RUSH University Medical Center, emergency department patients are 48% Black, 24% Hispanic/Latinx, 20% white and 8% other or unknown; inpatients are 32% Black, 17% Hispanic/Latinx, 43% white and 8% other or unknown. More than 100 RUSH leaders serve on diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy teams to create and implement strategic drivers to address these needs. Some of the initiatives to increase representation across our students, faculty, and staff, and promote justice include:

- American with Disabilities Act Taskforce: works to create programming, processes, accessibility, and accommodations to support people with disabilities as patients, faculty, house staff, students, employees, and volunteers.
- Business Diversity ensures that diverse, local vendors and suppliers have an equal opportunity to do business with RUSH.
- LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equity helps bring the best LGBTQ+ industry practices and culturally competent care to RUSH.
- The Women's Leadership Council is a collaborative, interprofessional group focusing on gender-related issues across RUSH.
- RUSH University Student and Faculty Diversity promotes the values of diversity, access, and inclusion by shaping and sustaining a positive multicultural environment for all faculty and students at RUSH.

**You can find more about diversity at RUSH [here](#).**

# RUSH OTD PROGRAM



## TIMELINE

### YEAR 1

BEGIN SEPTEMBER 2025

SEMESTER 1

JANUARY 2026

SEMESTER 2

MAY 2026

SEMESTER 3

### YEAR 2

SEPTEMBER 2026

SEMESTER 4

JANUARY 2027

SEMESTER 5

MAY 2027

SEMESTER 6

### YEAR 3

SEPTEMBER 2027

SEMESTER 7

SEMESTER 8

GRADUATE APRIL 2028



## RESEARCH

- Year long group research project guided by faculty and clinicians
- Students are encouraged to present at professional conferences and submit papers for publication
- Research track as an option for individualized doctoral capstone



## CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

- **Semester 1-3:** Clinical practicum rotations in RUSH University Medical Center Clinics and associated clinical and community sites
- **Group leadership experience** in RUSH clinics and the community for 6 weeks
- Two 2-week level I fieldwork experiences
- Two 12-week level II fieldwork experiences
- **Semester 8:** Individualized doctoral capstone



# WHY RUSH?



## CLASS SIZE

RUSH's OTD program has a small class size of 36 students



## CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

RUSH's OTD program offers clinical experiences every semester



## FACULTY

Close relationship between students and faculty

## SERVICE

RUSH University values service throughout the campus and community including:

- SOTA events!
- Close knit cohorts!
- Amazing opportunities to go out into the community and represent RUSH and OT!



## PRACTITIONER-TEACHER-INVESTIGATOR MODEL

- RUSH University Medical Center clinicians are integrated into the program
- Faculty engage in clinical practice
- Faculty, clinicians and students engage in research

## OUTCOMES

- RUSH's OTD program ranked among top 4% by US News Report
- 100% new graduate pass rate on the NBCOT exam with scores consistently above the national average

## MODALITIES TRAINING

- Integrated into the curriculum, RUSH provides modalities trainings that meets the IL State Practice Act requirements for the use of modalities.
- Saves \$500+ on an additional CEU!



# WHO WE ARE: FACULTY AND STAFF



**Kia “Ashley” Burks, OTD, OTR/L  
Instructor**  
**Doctoral Capstone Coordinator**  
**College of Health Sciences**  
**Department of Occupational  
Therapy**

## Education

**OTD, Rush University**  
**BS, University of Illinois at Chicago**

## Research Areas

**Acute care, equity and inclusion in OT education, trauma-informed care**

Kia Ashley Burks, OTD, OTR/L, is an instructor and Doctoral Capstone Coordinator in the Department of Occupational Therapy at RUSH University. She has experience in acute care at several major academic medical centers, including her current role as a registry occupational therapist at the University of Chicago. She also serves as a street outreach occupational therapist, providing care to individuals experiencing homelessness. As a student at Rush, she co-founded the Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) chapter and the RUSH Occupational Therapists in Action (ROTA) committee, which focuses on promoting anti-racist and equitable practices within the occupational therapy department. Her doctoral work centered on increasing resilience and well-being in underserved families utilizing early intervention services. Since 2018, she has been mentoring high school, undergraduate, graduate students interested in pursuing occupational therapy and has published articles highlighting strategies to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion within occupational therapy education.



**Ryan Durkin, OTD, OTR/L, MBA,  
ECHM**  
**Instructor**  
**College of Health Sciences**  
**Department of Occupational  
Therapy**  
**Program Manager, RUSH Older  
Adult Home Modification Program**

## Education

**OTD, Boston University**  
**MS, University of Illinois at Chicago**  
**MBA, Elmhurst University**  
**BS, DePaul University**

## Research Areas

**adults and older adults, inpatient, outpatient,  
preventative and lifestyle-based programming**

Ryan Durkin, OTD, MBA, OTR/L, ECHM, is an instructor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. Prior to joining the occupational therapy profession, Dr. Durkin worked in the software engineering field, leading international technology solution teams. As an occupational therapy practitioner, he has experience working with adults and older adults in inpatient, outpatient, and preventative and lifestyle-based programming. Dr. Durkin currently teaches the Leadership and Advocacy course in the RUSH OTD curriculum and is the Program Manager of the HUD-funded RUSH Older Adult Home Modification Program, an occupational therapist driven and client centered aging in place initiative serving older adults on Chicago’s West Side. Dr. Durkin completed his post-professional OTD at Boston University where he continues to serve as a teaching professional and academic mentor in their post-professional OTD program.

# WHO WE ARE: FACULTY AND STAFF



**Bridget Hahn, OTD, OTR/L**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Director of Admissions**  
**College of Health Sciences**  
**Department of Occupational**  
**Therapy**

## Education

**OTD, University of Illinois at Chicago**  
**MS, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse**  
**BS, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse**

## Research Areas

**Occupation-based assessment, knowledge translation, well-being, admissions best-practices**

Bridget Hahn, OTD, OTR/L, is an assistant professor and the director of admissions in the Department of Occupational Therapy. She comes to RUSH with experience in inpatient and outpatient physical rehabilitation and currently has clinical time in the geriatric primary care setting at Rush, alongside her teaching and administrative duties. Her passion lies in occupation-based practice, knowledge translation, holistic admissions, inclusivity, and clinician well-being. Her doctoral work focused on overcoming barriers to utilization of the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills in a rehabilitation setting.



**Piper Hansen OTD, OTR/L, BCPR**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Academic Fieldwork Coordinator**  
**College of Health Sciences**  
**Department of Occupational**  
**Therapy**

## Education

**OTD, Occupational Therapy, University of Illinois at Chicago**  
**MS, Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago**  
**Masters Certificate, Management in Non-Profit Organizational Leadership, University of Illinois at Chicago**  
**BS, Occupational Therapy, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

## Research Areas

**Fieldwork, neurorehabilitation assessments and interventions, and knowledge translation**

Piper Hansen OTD, ORT/L, BCPR is an assistant professor and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator in the Department of Occupational Therapy. Clinically, she specializes in the rehabilitation of persons with spinal cord injuries and other neurological conditions. Hansen is actively involved in research and teaching, with a focus on physical disabilities, OT fieldwork outcomes and knowledge translation. She has presented both nationally and internationally and has been published in various peer-reviewed journals on a variety of topics related to neurorehabilitation. Hansen is an active member of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) Roster of Accreditation Evaluators and is a site co-coordinator for the Shirley Ryan Abilitylab Neurological Fellowship.





### Education

**BA, Political Science, DePaul University**

**MS, Occupational Therapy, University of Illinois at Chicago**

**PhD, Occupational Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

### Research Areas

**Autism, sensory processing, telehealth**

Lauren Little, PhD, OTR/L, has a clinical background in occupational therapy and a PhD in Occupational Science. Little's expertise is in intervention for families of children with neurodevelopmental conditions, including autism spectrum disorders (ASD). She has practiced occupational therapy in early intervention settings and has been involved in numerous research projects for young children with ASD. Little has conducted research on the efficacy of telehealth for families of young children with ASD, and is active in state and national organizations to promote access to intervention services for underserved families of children with developmental conditions.

**Lauren M. Little, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA**

**Associate Professor**

**Associate Dean of Research**

**College of Health Sciences**

**Department of Occupational Therapy**



### Education

**BA, University of Arkansas at Little Rock**

Michelle is the Program Coordinator for the Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program. Michelle comes to her role with a unique prospective, using this to guide her assistance to the program. She has over 20 years of experience working with OT's in multiple settings in inpatient psychiatric hospitals as a Milieu Coordinator. Michelle enjoyed working with mental health OT's and implementing treatment care plans for children and adolescents with sensory processing issues and advocating for those patients. During her first 14 years at RUSH on the child and adolescent psychiatric unit (4Kellogg) Michelle worked in collaboration with the nursing and OT team on programming for the unit using ACT to create a curriculum for the Adolescent population. As the OTD Program Coordinator, she is responsible for facilitating the admissions process, assisting with student clinical placements and providing general programmatic/departmental support. She gained great respect for the field of OT while working side by side with OT's in Mental Health and is happy to be able to continue that professional relationship working with faculty, students, and program applicants in the University OTD Program at RUSH.

**Michelle McFall-Johnsen, BA**

**Program Coordinator**

**Fieldwork Assistant**

**College of Health Sciences**

**Department of Occupational Therapy**



**Becky Ozelie, DHS, OTR/L, FAOTA**  
**Chairperson & Program Director**  
**Associate Professor**  
**College of Health Sciences**  
**Department of Occupational**  
**Therapy**

**Education**

**DHS, University of Indianapolis**

**MHS, University of Indianapolis**

**BS-OT, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse**

**Research Areas**

**Spinal cord injury and stem cell innovations, occupational therapy fieldwork, student accommodations, education and effectiveness of simulation**

Becky Ozelie, DHS, ORT/L, FAOTA is the chairperson, program director and associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. Clinically, she specializes in the rehabilitation of persons with spinal cord injuries and burns. Ozelie is actively involved in research and teaching, with a focus on physical disabilities, OT fieldwork outcomes and use of simulation. She has presented both nationally and internationally and has been published in various peer-reviewed journals on the topics of spinal cord injury and OT fieldwork outcomes. Ozelie is an active board member of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) and RUSH University's Higher Learning Commission Assessment Academy.



**Evguenia S. Popova, PhD, OTR/L**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**College of Health Sciences**  
**Department of Occupational**  
**Therapy**

**Education**

**PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago**

**MS, University of Illinois at Chicago**

**BA, University of California, Berkeley**

**Research Areas**

**Family- and client-centered care, promotion of occupational engagement and participation, pediatrics and early intervention, social and transformative learning in health care and professional education, Model of Human Occupation and Intentional Relationship Model, supporting resilience in health care providers**

Evguenia S. Popova, PhD, MS, OTR/L, is an assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. Popova received her PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences and her dissertation examined interpersonal aspects of family-centered care in Early Intervention using the Intentional Relationship Model. Popova's scholarship focuses on clinical application of the Intentional Relationship Model and the Model of Human Occupation in promotion of person-centered care, active client engagement in the rehabilitation process and promotion of interpersonal resilience in rehabilitation practitioners across interdisciplinary settings. Popova is a practicing occupational therapist, with experience in pediatrics, mental health and community-based occupational therapy practice. Her primary area of practice is in Early Intervention. Additionally, she serves on the Board of Managers at GiGi's Playhouse Chicago, a community-based organization that serves people with Down syndrome across the lifespan.



**Ricardo D. Ramirez, OTD, OTR/L**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**College of Health Sciences**  
**Department of Occupational**  
**Therapy**

### Education

**OTD, University of Illinois at Chicago**

**MS, University of Illinois at Chicago**

**BA, University of Illinois at Chicago**

### Research Areas

**Mental health, integrative care, working with Latine communities, LGBTQ+ healthcare, oncology, student outreach and mentoring**

Ricardo D. Ramirez, OTD, OTR/L, QMHP is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. As a practicing occupational therapist with clinical expertise in adult and adolescent inpatient behavioral health as well as acute care, Ramirez focuses his clinical work and scholarship on delivering occupation-centered, holistic occupational therapy services for underserved populations—such as the Latinx community and LGBTQ+ youth—in order to promote occupational justice. He strives to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, access, and belonging (DEIJAB) throughout his practice, research, and teaching. Ramirez is the faculty advisor for the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) and the co-advisor for RUSH Occupational Therapists in Action (ROTA). Within the OTD program, he teaches the mental health and sociocultural aspects of care curricula. Ramirez obtained his OTD from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where his published doctoral work focused on the occupational participation of Latine cancer survivors and their family caregivers living in long-term survivorship.

### Education

**PhD, Rush University**

**OTD, University of Illinois at Chicago**

**MS, Occupational Therapy, University of Illinois at Chicago**

**BS, Psychology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

**BA, Spanish, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

### Research Areas

**Functional cognition, aging, interprofessional team-based care**

Steven J. Taylor, PhD, OTD, OTR/L, is an assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. His clinical and professional experiences provide a foundation for his teaching role within the Doctorate of Occupational Therapy program, where he is responsible for courses in health conditions and the neurosciences. Additionally, he is a member of RUSH University's Office of Interprofessional Education, and the Education Core for the Center for Excellence in Aging. With this office, he led the development of the [accesstelehealthtraining.org](http://accesstelehealthtraining.org) website to promote accessibility of telehealth services. Dr. Taylor's PhD dissertation research explored outcomes of a novel interprofessional service learning telehealth curriculum towards the enhancement of healthcare students' preparedness to work in teams, providing client-centered care through telehealth.



**Steven Taylor, PhD, OTD, OTR/L**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**College of Health Sciences**  
**Department of Occupational**  
**Therapy**



### Education

**PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago**

**BS, Occupational Therapy, University of Illinois at Chicago**

**BS, Psychology, University of Idaho**

### Research Areas

**Health equity and health care access of people with disability, exploring OTs' knowledge and understanding of disability and how these influence and impact clinical interventions**

Laura VanPuymbrouck, PhD, OTR/L, is an assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. Her clinical experience spans over 30 years across the care continuum of physical rehabilitation. Her doctoral research was a phenomenological study exploring how people with disabilities develop their identities as advocates in the health care context. VanPuymbrouck has been actively involved in the investigation of disparities in health due to health care access, quality of care, and outcomes for people with disabilities. Her research experience includes working as primary investigator, a project coordinator, co-investigator and research assistant on funded grants from a variety of esteemed local and national organizations. VanPuymbrouck is actively involved in community advocacy efforts to address disparities in healthcare access and health outcomes of the disability community. Her work as a founder of the PPE4PWD coalition is committed to addressing inequities experienced by Home and Community Based Service users living in the community. She has contributed to healthcare policy briefs and is a frequent contributor of public commentaries and opinion pieces across multiple media platforms.

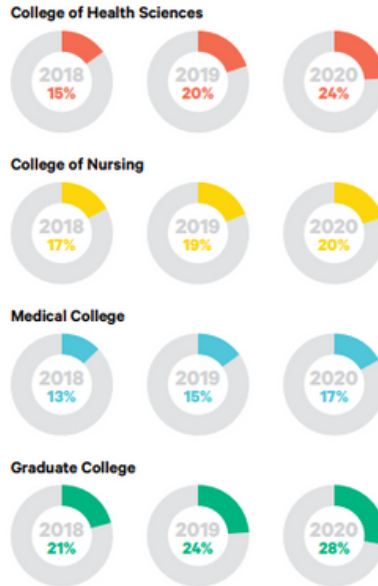
**Laura VanPuymbrouck, PhD,  
OTR/L, FAOTA**  
**Associate Professor**  
**College of Health Sciences**  
**Department of Occupational  
Therapy**

# WHO WE ARE

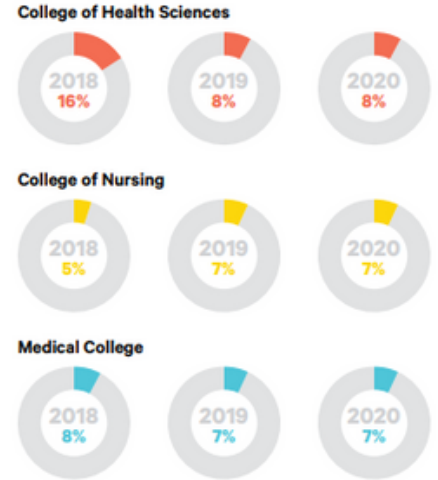
## RUSH UNIVERSITY

We recognize that transparency in the current demographic makeup of the organization is essential for applicants to make an informed decision and have included current trends below, although race and ethnicity are only one diversity factor.

### RUSH UNIVERSITY UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY STUDENT ENROLLMENT



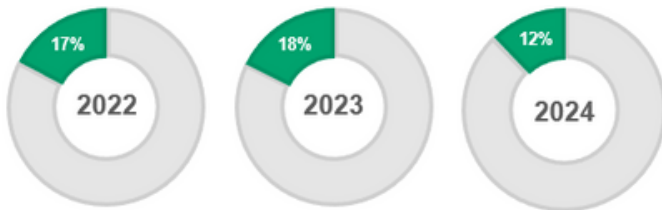
### RUSH UNIVERSITY UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY FACULTY



\*Graduate College faculty are drawn from these three colleges. These percentages and the following reflect the number of Black and Hispanic/Latinx faculty and students at Rush University.

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT

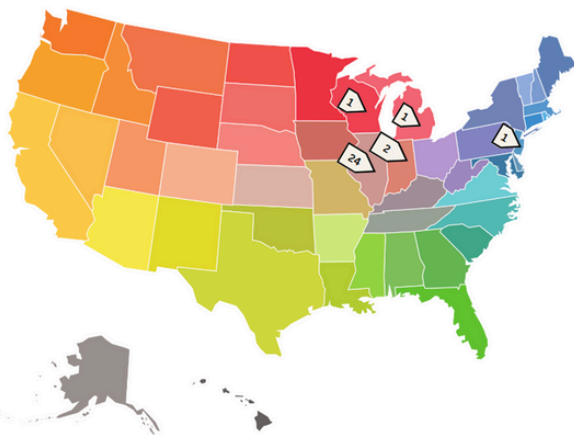
Occupational Therapy Department underrepresented minority student enrollment



### Class of 2026 Undergraduate Degrees



### Class of 2026 Background



### Geographic Location

- 93.9% (n=31) were born in the U.S. and 6.1% (n=2) were not
- 78.8% (n=26) raised in a suburban area
- 18.2% (n=6) raised in an urban area
- 3.0% (n=1) raised in a rural area

### Family Background:

- 48.5% (n=16) - Grandparents and parents were born in the U.S.
- 24.2% (n=8) - Parents were born in the U.S.
- 18.2% (n=6) - Neither parents were born in the U.S.

### Family Education:

- 75.8% (n=25) - I have a sibling who has (or is currently pursuing) a higher education degree
- 33.3% (n=11) - I am a first-generation college student (neither of my parents obtained a Bachelors degree)

# RUSH OTD Outcomes

## Occupational Therapy Program Accreditation

The entry-level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program at RUSH University has been approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at:

7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Phone: 301-652-AOTA  
Fax: 240-762-5140  
www.acoteonline.org



**National Board Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)** examination results indicate our students are well prepared upon graduation. Our students are prepared throughout the curriculum with exams designed to prepare them for the board exam and a practice exam provided as part of the curriculum. The below statistics are based on the OTD graduating class of 2023.

<b>National First-Time Pass Rate</b>	<b>RUSH First-Time Pass Rate</b>
73%	97%
<b>National Pass Rate</b>	<b>RUSH Pass Rate</b>
98%	100%
<b>National Average Score</b>	<b>RUSH Average Score</b>
470*	492*

\*A score of 450 is required to pass

### Graduation Rate

Graduation Year	Number of Students Matriculated	Graduation Rate*
2021	36	97%
2022	37	100%
2023	38	100%
2024	36	not yet available



\*Graduation rate is calculated in accordance with current ACOTE standards. See [our website](#) for additional details

# Admission Requirements for Fall 2025

- **Complete a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution.** Applicants may apply with outstanding coursework if all coursework is completed and a degree is conferred by matriculation (Sept)
- Complete the online application through the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application System (OTCAS) at <https://otcas.liasoncas.com/>. You can find a video walking you through OTCAS [here](#). 📺
- **Courses\* (with a letter grade of "C" or higher) completed before matriculation with the following content:**
  - Human anatomy with lab (cadaver lab preferred) = total of 4 credit hours
  - Human physiology (lab preferred) = total of at least 3 credit hours
    - \*Anatomy and Physiology must be taken within five years before the start of the program. Two sequential courses in Human Anatomy and Physiology with labs will also satisfy the prerequisites
  - Statistics (including descriptive and inferential statistics)
  - Sociology or Anthropology
  - Human growth and development across the lifespan (from birth through old age and dying)
  - Abnormal Psychology
  - One Psychology course (in addition to Human Growth and Development and Abnormal Psychology)

**\*Note:** Exams testing out of coursework and AP coursework are not acceptable for prerequisite requirements. Pass/Fail classes will be accepted for any courses taken in the Spring 2020 semester only.

- Achieve a minimum GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the most recent two years of your education
- **Personal Statement** demonstrating your understanding of the profession and what characteristics and experiences support you in becoming an occupational therapist.
- **Two Letters of recommendation** from individuals acquainted with the applicant's academic/professional aptitudes. OTCAS will contact each reference with instructions on how to complete an online evaluation.
- **Experience with occupational therapy through 20 hrs (minimum) observation of occupational therapy.** In the instance you cannot shadow, familiarity with OT can be demonstrated through completing the online shadowing experiences detailed on our website.
- **Interview Session**, selected applicants will be invited for a small group virtual interview session and must complete a RUSH supplemental application, with a \$40 fee.

**\*Please note that we no longer require or consider GRE scores**

\*Accepted applicants must complete a criminal background check and the required Health and Immunization History documentation. A felony conviction potentially negatively impacts a graduate's eligibility for certification and licensure.

\* The OTD program requires students to complete all required courses in the RUSH University Department of OT plan of study. **We do not allow credit for previous coursework and/or work experience.**

**All application materials will be evaluated, and the Occupational Therapy Admissions Committee will make decisions regarding the applicant's acceptability for the program. Academic and non-academic factors, including community service, work experience, research, and leadership, will be considered.**

# Application Checklist: 2025 Admissions

Applications will be reviewed by the OT Admissions Committee after OTCAS application is submitted and OTCAS has verified all transcripts, and letters of recommendation. Applications will be reviewed once they are verified by OTCAS. The earlier you submit your application, the earlier it will be reviewed and chances of a timely acceptance increase.

To submit your application for **early acceptance** consideration, you are advised to follow this checklist. Completing your application in this timeframe will give you priority for interview and scholarship funds, however all applications submitted before the deadline will be considered.

- Review all the instructions at the OTCAS website (<https://portal.otcas.org/>).
- By November 1st arrange for all official transcripts and letters of recommendation to be sent to OTCAS.
- Submit your OTCAS application by October 15th.
- No supplemental application is required by RUSH University at the time of your initial application. You will be informed when it is time to complete a Supplemental Application.
- Regularly check your OTCAS portal to monitor your application and the receipt of all supporting documents.

In order to meet the **January 15th deadline**, you are advised to follow this checklist:

- Review all of the instructions at the OTCAS website (<https://portal.otcas.org/>).
- By November 15th arrange for all official transcripts, and letters of recommendation.
- Submit your OTCAS application before midnight December 1st.
- No supplemental application is required by RUSH University at the time of your initial application. You will be informed when it is time to complete a Supplemental Application.
- Regularly check your OTCAS portal to monitor your application and the receipt of all supporting documents.

Questions about OTCAS application should be directed to OTCAS directly.

Questions about the status of your application, RUSH University's OT program, and/or application procedure can be directed to the OT Admissions committee at

[OT\\_Admissions@rush.edu](mailto:OT_Admissions@rush.edu) and 312-942-1084.



# Course of Study

## YEAR 1

### BEGIN SEPTEMBER 2025 SEMESTER 1

OCC 501 Human Structure & Principles of Movement (3)  
OCC 501L Functional Anatomy w/Lab (2)  
OCC 520 Health Conditions (4)  
OCC 608 Introduction to Clinical Practice (2) **(Practicum #1)** ★  
OCC 600 Introduction to Occupation Health and Wellness (3)  
IPE 502 Interprofessional Patient Centered Teams (0)  
**Total = 14**

### JANUARY 2026 SEMESTER 2

CHS 601 Introduction to Biostatistics (2)  
OCC 576 Sociocultural Aspects of Care (2)  
OCC 609 Occupational Performance & Ability (3) **(Practicum # 2)** ★  
OCC 620 Foundational Theories in OT (3)  
OCC 579 Research Methods (3)  
OCC 643 Health Care Systems (3)  
IPE 502 Interprofessional Patient Centered Teams (0)  
**Total = 16**

### MAY 2026 SEMESTER 3

OCC 625 Functional Neuroscience & Cognition (4)  
OCC 607 Psychosocial Aspects of Care (3) **(Practicum #3)** ★  
OCC 610 Occupational Therapy Process (3)  
OCC 615 Developmental Disabilities I (3)  
OCC 617 Clinical Practice Skills/**FWI-A** (2) ★  
OCC 683 Evidence-Based Practice Series I (1)  
**Total = 16**

## YEAR 2

### SEPTEMBER 2026 SEMESTER 4

OCC 612 Physical Disabilities I (4)  
OCC 614 Mental Health Practice (4) **(Group Dynamics)** ★  
OCC 618 Clinical Practice Skills/**FWI-B** (2) ★  
OCC 684 Evidence-Based Practice Series II (1)  
OCC 630 Program Development (2)  
**Total = 13**

### JANUARY 2027 SEMESTER 5

OCC 613 Physical Disabilities II (4)  
OCC 616 Developmental Disabilities II (4)  
OCC 685 Evidence-Based Practice Series III (2)  
OCC 810 Professional Reasoning & Doctorate Experience I (2)  
**Total = 12**

### MAY 2027 SEMESTER 6

OCC 795 **Advanced Fieldwork I** (9) ★  
OCC 644 Leadership & Advocacy (2)  
OCC 811 Professional Reasoning & Doctorate Experience II (1)  
**Total = 12**

## YEAR 3

### SEPTEMBER 2027 SEMESTER 7

OCC 797 **Advanced Fieldwork II** (9) ★  
OCC 812 Professional Reasoning & Doctorate Experience III (1)  
OCC 820 Capstone Competencies (1)  
**Total = 11**

### SEMESTER 8 GRADUATE APRIL 2028

OCC 825 **Individualized Doctoral Experience** (12) ★  
OCC 828 Capstone Dissemination (1)  
**Total = 13**

**Total hours = 107**



★ Indicates a hands on clinical experience

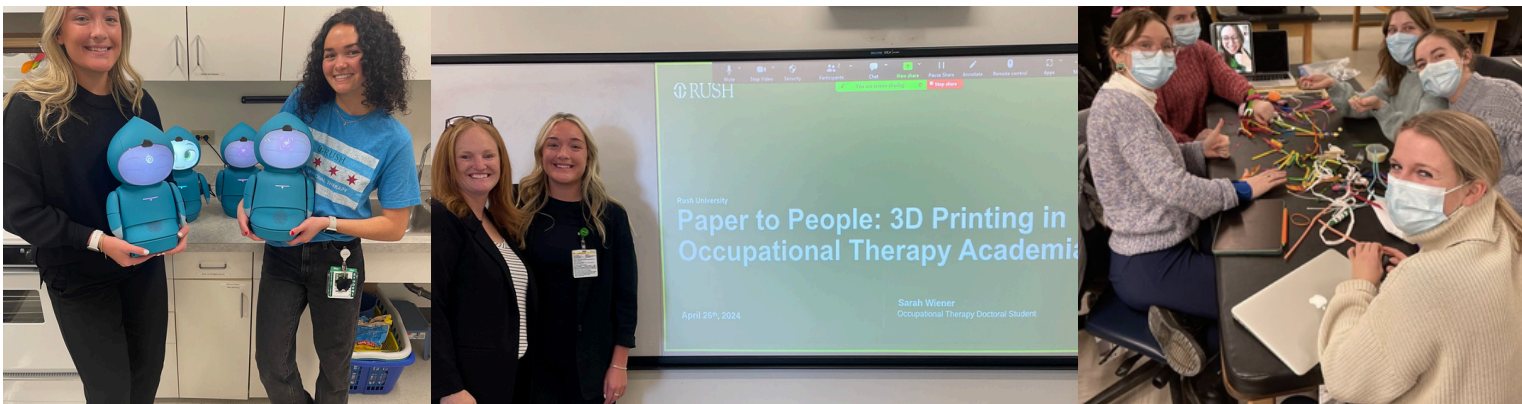
# General Program Requirements

The RUSH University OTD program is a full-time program with classes occurring Monday-Friday, however, some evening and weekend hours may be required periodically to complete academic and clinical assignments. In these situations, students will be given ample notice to arrange their schedules accordingly. Although the majority of classes are on campus, some courses are online with both asynchronous and synchronous sessions. Technology requirements for those courses and the entire program can be found on page 5 of this document. Collaborative strategies are commonly used in the curriculum which means that students will need to work with their peers outside of scheduled class periods.

Attendance and active participation are important aspects of professional education and are critical to professional development. Students are expected to be present for all class, lecture, and lab meetings. They are fully responsible for all content presented to them. Excused absences must be requested before the class meeting time and must be validated by the instructor. Valid excuses include illness, doctor's instruction, a notice of death in the family, religious obligations, and other special circumstances. Students must email or call the instructor in the case of an absence. The student is responsible for obtaining class information after an absence.

Business casual dress is required for all classrooms, with the exception of Caribbean blue scrubs for lab activities. On clinical placements, students will be required to follow each site's dress code.

Students enrolled in the OTD program at RUSH University are expected to have the skills necessary to function as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy student in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical/fieldwork settings. The technical standards required of all students enrolled in the OTD program can be found in the next section.



# Technical Standards

RUSH University is committed to diversity and to attracting and educating students who will make the population of healthcare professionals representative of the national population. Our core values - I CARE (innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect, and excellence) -translate into our work with all students, including those with disabilities. RUSH actively collaborates with students to develop innovative ways to ensure accessibility and creates a respectful, accountable culture through our confidential and specialized disability support. RUSH is committed to excellence in accessibility; we encourage students with disabilities to disclose and seek accommodations. The following technical functions are required of all students enrolled in the Occupational Therapy program:

## Acquire Information

- Acquire information from demonstrations and experiences in courses, such as lecture, group and physical demonstrations
- Acquire information from written documents and computer systems (e.g., literature searches and data retrieval)
- Identify information presented in accessible images from paper, slides, videos with audio description and transparencies
- Recognize and assess patient changes in mood, activity, cognition, verbal and non-verbal Communication

## Motor

- Possess psychomotor skills necessary to provide or assist in holistic occupational therapy care and perform or assist with procedures and treatments
- Practice in a safe manner and appropriately provide occupational therapy care and assessment in emergencies and life support procedures, and perform universal precautions against contamination

## Intellectual Ability

- Measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize data related to the diagnosis and treatment of patients and populations
- Exercise proper judgment and complete responsibilities in a timely and accurate manner according to the occupational therapy role
- Synthesize information, problem-solve and think critically to judge the most appropriate theory, assessment or treatment strategy

## Use and Interpret

- Use and interpret information from assessment techniques/maneuvers
- Use and interpret information related to physiologic phenomena generated from diagnostic tools

## Behavioral

- Maintain mature, sensitive, effective relationships with clients/patients, families, students, faculty, staff, preceptors and other professionals under all circumstances
- Exercise skills of diplomacy to advocate for patients in need
- Possess emotional stability to function under stress and adapt to rapidly changing environments inherent to the classroom and practice settings

## Character

- Demonstrate concern for others
- Integrity, accountability, interest and motivation are necessary personal qualities
- Demonstrate intent and desire to follow the RUSH University and Occupational Therapy code of ethics

The technical standards delineated above must be met with or without accommodation. Students who, after review of the technical standards, determine that they require reasonable accommodation to fully engage in the program should contact the Office of Student Disability Services to confidentially discuss their accommodations needs. Given the clinical nature of our programs, time may be needed to create and implement the accommodations. Accommodations are never retroactive; therefore, timely requests are essential and encouraged. To learn more about accommodations at RUSH University please contact:

Marie Lusk, MBA, MSW, LSW  
Director, Office of Student Accessibility Services  
Rush University  
600 S. Paulina St. AAC 901  
Chicago, IL 60612  
(773) 942-5237  
[Marie\\_Lusk@rush.edu](mailto:Marie_Lusk@rush.edu)  
<https://www.rushu.rush.edu/office-student-accessibility-services>

# Graduation Requirements

Once admitted to the Occupational Therapy program, students embark on a journey that entails the accumulation of 107 term hours for graduation. In order to graduate and have the Occupational Therapy Doctorate conferred, students must meet the following:

- Successfully complete all didactic coursework and fieldwork
- Pass the Department of Occupational Therapy oral competency exam
- Successfully complete all requirements of the individual doctoral experience and capstone project
- Pass the RUSH University Interprofessional Patient Care Teams course (IPE 503)
- Complete a minimum of 16 contact hours of approved professional or community service

In order to be eligible to take the registration exam administered by the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapists, students must have completed all graduation requirements as documented in official transcripts from RUSH University. Students must complete all program requirements within 45 months from the time they begin the program. Students will have 15 months to complete Level II fieldwork after the final day of Semester 5 of the curriculum and 12 months to complete the doctoral experience/project after the last day of their final Level II fieldwork. Any student who expects to go beyond this timeframe must request an exception to the policy, in writing, to the program director.



# Scholarly and Professional Service

## Scholarly Activities

All faculty are involved in research projects in occupational therapy. Students participate in faculty-supervised research projects of interest, which may be carried out in one of RUSH University Medical Center’s occupational therapy clinics, other healthcare facilities, or community organizations. Students are required to present their research projects during the annual Department of Occupational Therapy Research Symposium, submit them for presentation at state and national conferences, and/or publication in a professional journal identified by the faculty research adviser.

Students are also required to independently complete a capstone project that will advance knowledge within the occupational therapy profession. All students present their findings at RUSH’s Doctoral Capstone Dissemination day; publication is highly encouraged. You can find previous capstone student's work [here](#).

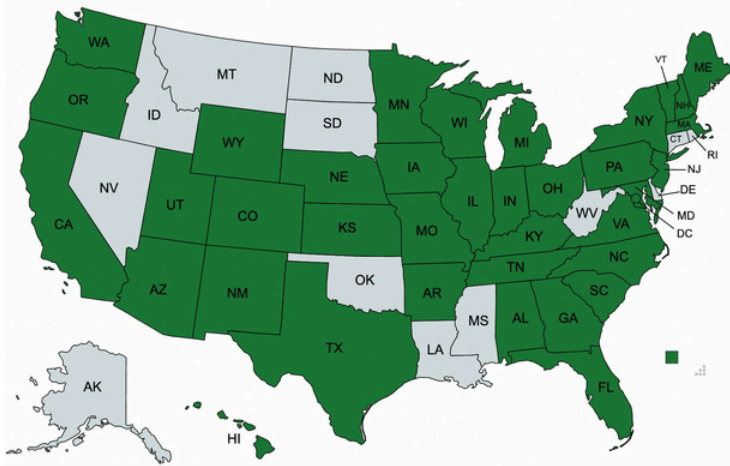
## Professional Service Activities

A hallmark of outstanding RUSH students and alumni is the desire to make meaningful service contributions. All RUSH students are required to complete 16 hours of service. Many opportunities exist for students to obtain these hours, including collaboration with faculty service projects, and departmental and university-wide student organization events. A few of the current OTD faculty service partnerships include opportunities to volunteer at Revive Center for Housing and Healing, Gigi's Playhouse, and House of Good Shepard Shelter. Additional opportunities with the larger RUSH community include the [RUSH Community Service Initiatives Program \(RICSIP\)](#).



# RUSH UNIVERSITY FIELDWORK

*Fieldwork Program Overview*



## Fieldwork Locations

37 States

4+ International Locations

Approx. 400 Total Current Locations



## RUSH Fieldwork

- Curriculum and Practicum experiences begin in the first semester to support fieldwork preparation and promote success.
- RUSH OT Is affiliated with an Academic Medical Center allowing for increased clinical interactions.
- An average of 200 Fieldwork opportunities are available each year for students to select from.
- A wide variety of clinical and community fieldwork settings are available for each experience. i.e. hospital and community-based pediatrics, EI, mental health, hippotherapy, rehabilitation, acute care, day rehabilitation, emerging and non-traditional settings.
- An established process for adding and requesting new fieldwork partners and locations annually.
- Individualized student fieldwork advising and matching process to customize a diverse fieldwork plan that reflects student educational needs and preferences.

## Experiences

- Three part time practicums across 3 semesters that reflect the curriculum.
- One six week group leadership experience.
- Two full time, two week, Level I Fieldwork opportunities.
- Two full time, 12 week, Level II Fieldwork opportunities.
- 

Questions? [Piper\\_Hansen@rush.edu](mailto:Piper_Hansen@rush.edu)

# Technology

## Required Software/Online Tools

**My Apps:** <https://myapps.rush.edu/>

Students are recommended to use My Apps, which is a virtual desktop where Office software, RUSH Email, and secure storage is provided.

Visit <https://rushuportal.learning.rush.edu/faq> for more information about the My Apps virtual environment. Students are also able to log into RULearning from MyApps.

**RULearning Login Page:** <https://rulearning.rush.edu/>

Students are also able to access RULearning via the listed login page.

### **Computer Requirements:**

Students should have computers with audio/visual capabilities (including the ability to record presentation assignments) and that support learning management tools including but not limited to Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor, Panapto, and ExamSoft.

### **Microsoft Office Suite: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint:**

If you do not already have the Microsoft Office software you can access the Suite through My Apps or download a copy of the Microsoft Office suite at a reduced cost for Windows or Mac users: <https://rush.onthehub.com/>

### **Internet Browsers:**

Students should have access to more than one browser, such as Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox or Safari. All browsers should be the most up-to-date version available.

### **Internet Requirements:**

Students must have access to a high-speed internet connection when working off campus.

### **Adobe Acrobat Reader:**

Students should have access to the most up-to-date Adobe Acrobat Reader.

**Canvas:** <https://rushuniversity.instructure.com/>

Rush University uses Canvas learning management system for all courses.



# Financial Aid

If you intend to apply for financial assistance through the Rush University Office of Student Financial Aid, please complete the 2024/2025 FAFSA application at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). When completing the application ensure to include the Rush University's school code, 009800. By adding the school code to the FAFSA your information will automatically be transmitted to the Office of Student Financial Aid. The financial aid process may take up to 21 days after (1) the date you submit the FAFSA and (2) formal acceptance is received by Rush University Office of Student Financial Aid.

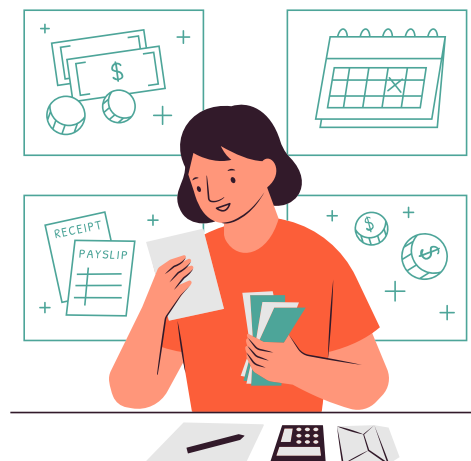
In certain situations, you may need to submit additional documents. You will be contacted via email if this is the case. The Office of Student Financial Aid will review your application for financial assistance once your file is complete with all requested documents. You will receive an email when your award is ready, directing you to the secure University Portal where you can find information about your financial aid award and the next steps.

You may need to complete additional paperwork based on the aid you receive and accept. Details will be included in the award information provided to you.

Office of Student Financial Aid  
Armour Academic Center  
600 South Paulina St., Suite 440  
Chicago, IL 60612  
(312) 942-6256

**Email:** Send us an email at [financial\\_aid@rush.edu](mailto:financial_aid@rush.edu).

**For additional information check out the Rush University Office of Student Financial Aid website:** <https://www.rushu.rush.edu/rush-experience/student-services/office-student-financialaid>



# OTCAS Application Fee Waiver

## Fees



OTCAS charges \$150 for the first program and \$65 for each additional program. Some programs may have an additional supplemental fee.

## Fee Assistance Program

A limited number of fee waivers are provided to qualified applicants on a first come, first-served basis. You may request a fee waiver as soon as you create an application. Contact 617-612-2860 before you submit a fee waiver to determine if they are still available.



## Qualification Requirements



1. Filed Federal Income Tax Return Form with an adjusted gross income that falls below the Low Income Level.
2. Must request a fee waiver before application is submitted

## Applying for a Fee Waiver

1. Start OTCAS application
2. Click on your name in the upper right corner of the application, then select "Fee Assistance Program"
3. Enter household's adjusted gross income and number of people in household
4. Upload a copy of the filed Federal Income Tax Return
5. Await notification, may take up to 10 business days

# Internal Scholarships

Several Scholarship opportunities are available to RUSH Occupational Therapy students. \* Scholarships are awarded by the OT department scholarship committee and allocated through the RUSH University Office of Student Financial Aid. All students with a verified OTCAS application are considered for all first-year scholarships. No additional scholarship application exists outside of OTCAS.

## Merit Scholarships:

Merit scholarships are allocated based on merit as determined by OTCAS application. To be eligible, students must have a confirmed seat in the program, complete FASFA, and complete all required Office of Student Financial Aid paperwork.

## Graduate Assistantships:

Graduate Assistantships, based in the Department of Occupational Therapy, are allocated based on merit as determined by OTCAS application. To be eligible, students must have a confirmed seat in the program, complete FASFA, and complete all required Office of Student Financial Aid paperwork. Graduate assistants are paired with faculty based on mutual interest and work for faculty approximately 8 hours/week across your first three semesters in the program.

## Diversity Scholarships:

Diversity scholarships are available to promote diversity, inclusion and intellectual exchange. We aim to not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be. The College of Health Sciences believes diversity encompasses the range of human differences, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, physical ability, cognitive, linguistic, or psychosocial abilities, religious or ethical values system, national origin, and political beliefs. Inclusion is involvement and empowerment in which the inherent worth and dignity of all people are recognized. These scholarships are based responses to the diversity prompt on your OTCAS application.

## Other Scholarships:

Throughout the second- and third-year scholarship funds are available based on academic merit, demonstration of RUSH's ICARE values, and to an artful clinician award recipient.

\*Scholarship information/allocation is subject to change



# External Scholarships

## AOTA E.K. Wise Scholarship

- Three scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each will be available annually to students enrolled in (or accepted to) a full-time accredited occupational therapy program and who can contribute to a diverse workforce.
- Application open in February 2024
- More information [here](#).

## AOTF Scholarships

- The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) awards more than 50 scholarships annually to students currently enrolled in accredited occupational therapy programs. Scholarships range from \$150 to \$5,000 annually and are awarded to students who have completed at least one year of occupational therapy course work.
- More information [here](#).

## AMBUCS Scholars-Scholarships for Therapists

- The AMBUCS Scholars-Scholarships for Therapists distributes \$200,000 annually in awards ranging from \$500 to \$6,000. Applicants are selected based on financial need, US citizenship, commitment to local community, academic accomplishment, character for compassion and integrity, and career objectives.
- More information [here](#).

## The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans

- The PDS Fellowships for New Americans program honors the contributions of immigrants and children of immigrants to the United States. Each year, we invest in the graduate education of 30 New Americans—immigrants and children of immigrants—who are poised to make significant contributions to US society, culture or their academic field.
- More information [here](#).

## PIF/ Lifeline Scholarship Program

- Scholarships are available for adult students who are enrolled in one of the following programs: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/hearing therapy, mental health, or rehabilitation. Recipients must be preparing for, or already involved in, careers working with people with disabilities/brain related disorders.
- More information [here](#).

# External Scholarships Continued

## Carlotta Welles Scholarship

- This scholarship is for a student seeking an associate degree; must be a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association; demonstrate a need for financial assistance; and have a sustained record of outstanding scholastic achievement.
- More information [here](#).

## Alice Jantzen Memorial Scholarship

- Qualified applicants must all eligibility requirements. For Post-baccalaureate scholarships, this must be the first degree in Occupational Therapy; have a sustained record of outstanding scholastic achievement; Supply application data including: (1) Two references and (2) Program Director's statement.
- More information [here](#).

## Willard & Spackman Memorial Scholarship

- For student seeking a post-professional graduate degree; must be a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association; demonstrate a need for financial assistance; and have a sustained record of outstanding scholastic achievement.
- More information [here](#).

## Kappa Delta Phi Scholarship

- For student seeking a baccalaureate degree or post-baccalaureate certificate; must be a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association; demonstrate a need for financial assistance; and have a sustained record of outstanding scholastic achievement.
- More information [here](#).

## Lands Banks Memorial Scholarship

- This scholarship provides financial assistance for students pursuing a graduate school degree in an accredited occupational therapy program. Students must be enrolled full time in a program and have completed on year of coursework. This scholarships is prioritized for people who are typically under-represented in occupational therapy.
- More information [here](#)

For other scholarship opportunities, you can log on at [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org) Follow the student link to Financial Aid.

# External Scholarships Continued

## Sallie Mae Scholarship

- 2,000 dollars a month to people who need financial assistance to pursue education
- More information [here](#)

## \$25,000 Be Bold No-Essay Scholarship

- 25,000 dollars designed for individuals who are wanting to pursue advanced education
- Complete a bold application profile with your goals achievements and drive
- More information [here](#)

## Amtrak Academic Scholarship

- 5,000 dollars to cover tuition, books, fees, and equipment required for an advanced application.
- Complete an application with a required 500 word essay and resume.
- More information [here](#)

## Niche \$2,024 No Essay Scholarship

- 2,024 dollars for people who are in college and planning on pursuing a graduate degree the following year to ease the burden of education related expenses.
- More information [here](#)

## Pauahi Foundation Public Scholarships

- 150 scholarships for people who are pursuing a graduate education that is based on merit and financial need.
- Must submit an application, a transcript, a personal essay, and a list of extracurricular/community service activities.
- More information [here](#)

## Dr. Omega Logan Silva Scholarship

- 20,000 for women with financial need who are pursuing a career in the healthcare field. To apply, you must fill out an application with an essay, letters of recommendation, resume, and transcript.
- More information [here](#)

# External Scholarships Continued

## Roothbert Fund Scholarships

- 7,000 dollars to people who intend on pursuing a graduate degree.
- Applicants must provide transcripts, write three essays, provide three letters of recommendation, and fill out the application.
- More information [here](#)

## James M. & Erma T. Fremont Scholarship Program

- Scholarship money will be provided for people who intend on pursuing a graduate degree in a healthcare field.
- More information [here](#)

## BPWI Educational Foundation Returning Student Scholarship

- Provides financial assistance for women in Illinois pursuing higher education.
- Must submit an application with a transcript, two letters of recommendation, and an completed essay.
- More information [here](#)

## Cassandra Toroian Scholarship

- 5,000 dollars for people who are pursuing a graduate degree in need of financial assistance
- Applicants must complete an essay and have an excellent academic record.
- More information [here](#)

## Marshall Scholarship

- 85,000 dollars to applicants who have the potential to excel as scholars.
- Applicants must have a gpa of 3.7 or higher.
- More information [here](#)

## Taco Bell Live Más Scholarship

- 25,000 dollars for students who are pursuing higher education.
- Applicants will create a video about your passion and impact on the community.
- More information [here](#)

# External Scholarships Continued

## The Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program

- 10,000 dollars to students who have academic and professional goals.
- More information [here](#)

## Medical Professional Student Scholarship

- 10,000 dollars for people who are pursuing an advanced degree in a medical profession who have financial need.
- More information [here](#)

## Allied Health Scholarship

- Scholarship money for full-time students who plan on pursuing an advanced degree in the allied health field.
- More information [here](#)



# International Applicants

RUSH University Medical Center welcomes International applicants. If you are an international student interested in applying to the OT program, please review the helpful links below and contact [CHS\\_Admissions@rush.edu](mailto:CHS_Admissions@rush.edu) with any questions.

[TOEFL requirement and waiver information.](#)

[International course evaluation requirement.](#)

If you need an F-1 visa or immigration status to study at Rush, contact International Student Services at [international\\_students@rush.edu](mailto:international_students@rush.edu) or (312) 942-5681.



# Student Organizations

## Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)

A student run organization open to all RUSH OT students. SOTA is committed to serving the community through volunteer activities and fundraising and increasing awareness of the value of occupational therapy to both the public and other health care disciplines.

## Rush OTs in Action (ROTA)

Department committee of faculty and student members who meet monthly to hold the department accountable for racial and ethnic for promoting racial and ethnic equity by:

- Educating future occupational therapy practitioners, faculty, and staff on topics related to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Advocating for change within RUSH's Occupational Therapy program and across the profession based on evidence-based recommendations
- Improving the prospective and current student experience by ensuring an inclusive environment

## Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD)

An international nonprofit organization that works to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion and address occupational injustice. Check out the latest project from the RUSH COTAD Chapter [here!](#)



RUSH offers many other opportunities for students to become involved in our over 35 active student organizations and the Office of Community Engagement.

<https://www.rushu.rush.edu/getting-involved>

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is unique about RUSH's OTD Department?

The RUSH University experience is unique because of the carefully crafted academic, clinical, and research curriculum paired with RUSH University Medical Center. As part of this students participate in a **clinical experience during every semester of the program**, beginning in week 4 of the first semester. RUSH University utilizes the Practitioner-Teacher-Investigator (PTI) model, meaning OT faculty members have many different roles, including teaching, research, and practice. Additionally, RUSH OT practitioners support students' learning by sharing their expertise in the classroom and supervising clinical experiences. This allows students to learn from current practitioners in a variety of professional practice settings, in addition to the faculty.

Furthermore, our doctoral coursework builds students' leadership, advocacy, and independence with program development. RUSH University graduates are equipped with **clinical skills as well as leadership skills** to move the profession forward.

RUSH values our **small class size** of 36 students. We have a 1:4.5 faculty-to-student ratio and value the relationships we build with our students in the classroom, through advising, and clinical supervision.

## Is there a part-time, fully online, or non-traditional option?

No. The program is designed to be primarily in-person Monday-Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. The program has a few online courses, including an interdisciplinary statistical methods course and an interprofessional patient-centered team course in which OTD students collaborate with students from other disciplines and engage with healthcare service users.

## How are faculty and students involved in research?

The occupational therapy faculty, clinicians, and students participate as a research team to develop research projects. The team begins meeting in the second semester and finishes with a graduate research project presentation dissemination during the fifth semester. Students are also encouraged to submit their work for state and national presentation and/or publication. 60% of the class of 2023 presented at a National Conference. Four students received grants to support their research. Students are also required to complete a capstone project, many of which have been published. You can learn more about previous capstone projects [here](#).

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What is the NBCOT (National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy) pass rate?**

For the Class of 2023, our graduates achieved a 97% first-time pass rate and a 100% overall pass rate. We are ahead of the national average, which is a 73% first-time pass rate. Furthermore, our average passing score was 492 and the national average is 470.

## **What are student outcomes at graduation?**

The average job placement for the Class of 2022 and 2023 was 90% within 6 months of graduation. 79% reported earning greater than \$60,000/year.

## **What do graduates have to say about RUSH's OTD?**

**100%** of Class of 2023 respondees (n=18) reported RUSH's OTD curriculum provided them with the knowledge needed to be an evidence-based OT, pass the board exam, and be a leader in the field. **100%** were satisfied with the variety and blend of the educational experiences and the quality of their education at RUSH.

## **What is the tuition?**

Tuition was \$15,479 per term for the 2022-2023 academic year. RUSH does not charge additional fees. However, there are other cost components to consider when applying for financial assistance including medical insurance (required), books, supplies, rent, utilities, etc. Note: tuition is subject to change.

## **I'm not from the Chicago. Where can I find information about moving to and living in Chicago?**

RUSH University Student Life at: email: [student\\_life@rush.edu](mailto:student_life@rush.edu) or visit their website at: [www.rushu.rush.edu/studentlife](http://www.rushu.rush.edu/studentlife). The department also makes efforts to connect students in the incoming cohort in a timely fashion so they can find housing together if interested.

## **Do I need to send my official transcripts directly to RUSH University?**

Not during the application phase. Only if you are admitted to the program will you need to submit official transcripts.

## **Do I have to submit a supplemental application?**

If you are invited for an interview you will be required to submit a supplemental application.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Does RUSH require the GRE?**

No, beginning matriculation 2023 the admissions committee no longer considers GRE scores.

## **Can I have outstanding pre-requisites courses when I apply?**

Yes. Courses must be completed prior to beginning the program which is early September.

## **What are the statistics of admitted students in the OT program?**

The average Prerequisite GPA (based on 4.0 scale) for matriculated students is above 3.5.

Number of students matriculated per cycle

- 2022 admission: 36
- 2023 admission: 34
- 2024 admission: 40

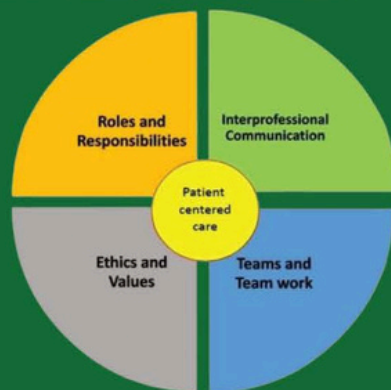
## **Aside from student organizations, what outside of class experiences are available for RUSH OT students?**

- The College of Health Sciences (CHS) requires its students to accumulate a minimum of 16 hours community service throughout their time at RUSH.
- Many opportunities exist for students to obtain these hours, including collaboration with faculty service projects, and departmental and university-wide student organization events. Some current OTD faculty service partnerships include opportunities to volunteer at Revive Center for Housing and Healing, OT Street Medicine and the Night Ministry.
- The office of Student Life offers opportunities for various activities throughout the year for students enrolled in all academic programs.
- RUSH Community Service Initiatives Program (RCSIP) was established in 1991 to create a thriving network of community service programs that match RUSH University student interest and initiative with the social and healthcare needs of the Chicago population. Students have the opportunity to participate in clinical and non-clinical community service programs that are administered through the RCSIP office and overseen by RUSH Clinicians.
- RUSH OT students have the opportunity to apply and serve as student members on the OT department admission committee.
- RUSH OT also hosts lots of social activities to foster community. Activities include OT Prom with Gigi's Playhouse, Bunco, social gatherings at favorite Chicago spots, and many more.

# IPE 502- Interprofessional Patient Centered Teams

Online FA2024 & SP2025

- Break out of academic silos and learn about, from, and with each other
- Collaboratively work with student teammates from different healthcare professions in a variety of team building activities
- Approximately 700 students from 17 health care programs are enrolled and you will be randomly assigned to a team
- IPE502 appears on your transcript as a Pass/No Pass.



**IPE 502 introduces students to the four interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (IPEC) Domains. Students develop the skills, knowledge, and attitude of each IPEC Domain by working collaboratively with teammates on:**

- 1. Weekly assignments vary and include written discussions, reflections, knowledge checks, videos, and surveys**
- 2. Two, Fall, 60-90 minute online meetings where students meet, discuss roles and responsibilities, and play a virtual health care escape room to practice team communication**
- 3. Three, Spring, 60-90 minute Telehealth Sessions where each student team meets and supports a Community Health Mentor, adult volunteer living with a chronic condition(s)**
- 4. All five online meetings (Fall and Spring) are held on specific Wednesdays sometimes between 1-6pm.**

We look forward to working with you. Sincerely,

Jan A. Odiaga DNP, CPNP-PC  
Associate Professor  
Director, Office of  
Interprofessional Education  
[Jan\\_A\\_Odiaga@rush.edu](mailto:Jan_A_Odiaga@rush.edu)

Theresa Gierlowski, MPM  
Lead Instructor  
College of Health Sciences  
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# Getting to RUSH University Medical Center TRANSPORTATION MAP

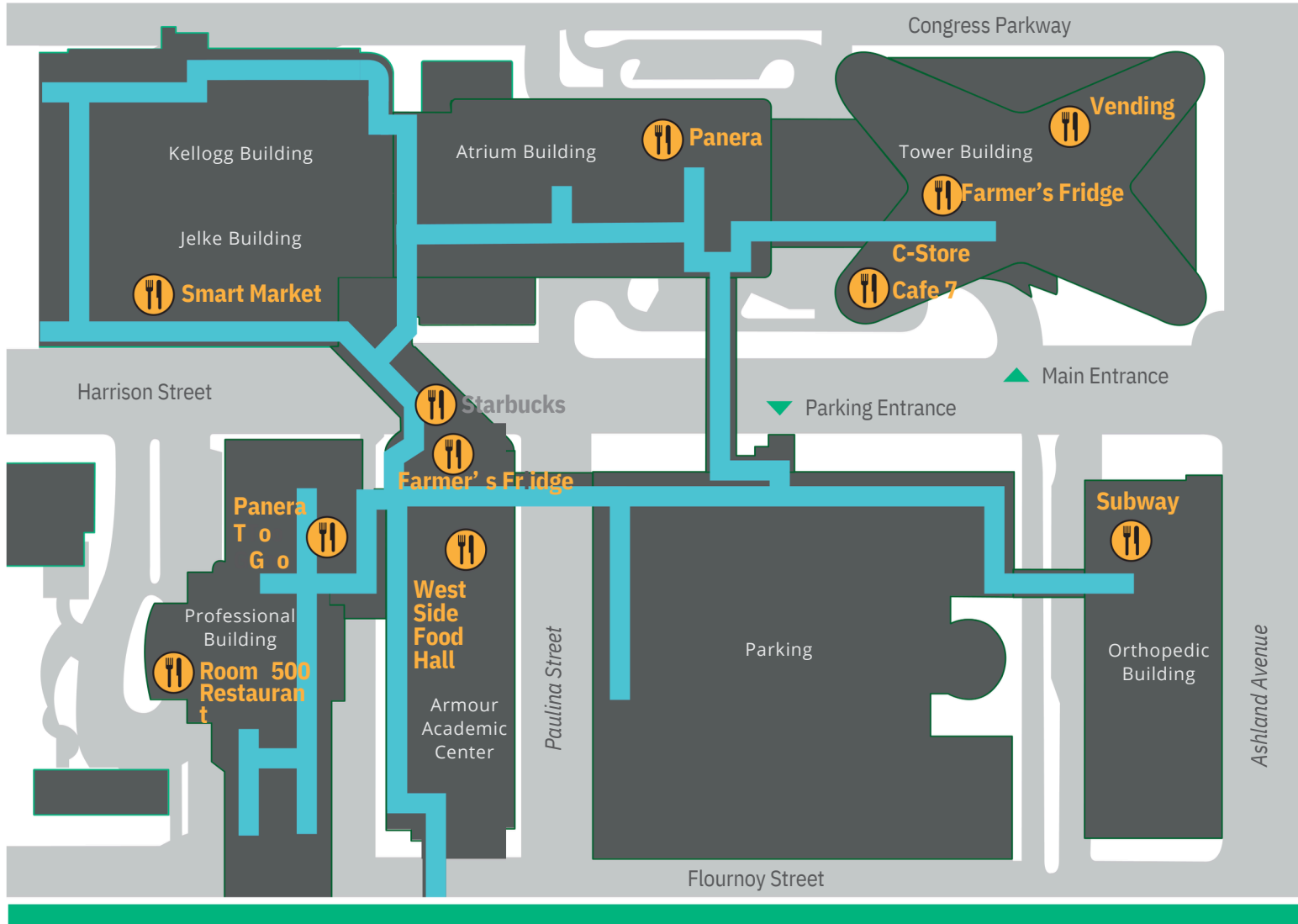


## KEY

- Hospital
- Emergency
- Cab Stand
- Parking
- Patient & Visitor Parking
- Employee Parking
- Valet
- CTA Train
- Bike Rack
- Divvy Station
- Rush Parking Shuttle Stop
- Metra Shuttle Stop
- CTA Bus Stop  
Ashland #9  
Paulina #7  
Polk #157  
Jackson #126
- Convenience Shuttle Day Run Stop



# Dining Options at RUSH University Medical Center



**Armour Academic Center**  
**Farmer's Fridge, 4th Floor, 24/7**

**Starbucks, 1st Floor**  
 Monday – Friday: 5 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
 Saturday – Sunday: 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**West Side Food Hall, 2nd Floor**  
 Monday – Friday: 6:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
 Saturday – Sunday: 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Atrium Building**  
**Panera, 4th Floor, 24/7**

**Jelke Building**  
**Jelke Smart Market, 1st Floor, 24/7**

**Orthopedic Building**  
**Subway, 1st Floor**  
 Monday – Friday: 6:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
 Saturday: 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Sunday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Professional Building**  
**Farmer's Fridge, 10th Floor, Rush University Cancer Center**  
 Monday – Friday: 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Panera To Go, 1st Floor**  
 Monday – Friday: 6:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Room 500 Restaurant, 5th Floor**  
 Monday – Friday: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Room 500 To Go, 5th Floor**  
 6:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Tower Building**  
**Farmer's Fridge, 4th Floor, 24/7**

**Café 7, 7th Floor, Employees Only**  
 Monday – Friday: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**C-Store, 7th Floor, 24/7**

**Dr. Murphy's 2-Go, 4th Floor**  
 Monday – Friday:  
 Noon – 1 p.m., 2 – 3 p.m. and 7 – 8 p.m.

