

2026 OTCAS APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS



Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program OTCAS Application Information and Instructions



As of July 18, 2025, the application process for the Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program at A-State will be through OTCAS.

Overview

Enrollment in the Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program is limited each year to 30 students. Application scores include the following factors:

- Academic status – prerequisite and overall GPAs
- Application essay
- 3 OTCAS requested evaluations.
- Community/Volunteer service (Does not have to be with an Occupational Therapist, healthcare related, or in a healthcare facility.)

To be considered for the OTD program, applicants must apply to **BOTH** the Arkansas State University (AState) graduate school and OTCAS. Admission to the graduate school does not guarantee admission into the OTD program. We prefer applicants to apply to the graduate school before you submit your program application in February. If you do not have a Bachelor's degree, please include your most current transcript through the Fall semester before your application in the Spring semester.

For information on how to apply to the graduate school, go to <https://www.astate.edu/info/admissions/graduate/how-to-apply/>.

For information on how to apply to OTCAS, go to <https://otcas.cas.myliaison.com/applicant-ux/#/login>

For information on the OTD program, go to <https://www.astate.edu/college/conhp/departments/occupational-therapy/>.

The Occupational Therapy Doctorate program at Arkansas State University is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE):

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education
American Occupational Therapy Association
7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E
Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: 301.652.6611
Email: accred@aota.org
Website: www.acoteonline.org

Admission Requirements

In order to be eligible for admission to the Occupational Therapy Doctorate program, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Completed a Bachelor's degree or are within 1 semester of completing a Baccalaureate degree from an accredited University or College.
- Complete an application to AState graduate school.
- Complete OTCAS application.
- Submit all transcripts to OTCAS. (Submit a transcript from every college/university you attended after high school even if it was for a single class.)
- Earn a final grade of "B" or higher for all prerequisite courses. Applicants must have a minimum of 20 prerequisite credit hours completed at the time of application on February 1.
- A prerequisite GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale of all college work attempted.
- 30 hours of documented community service. 20 hours must be in a single location.
- 3 pre-professional recommendations (must use admission packet forms).
- English proficiency requirements, if foreign born (see application p. 6).
- Applicants scoring 70 or higher on the admission application will receive automatic consideration by the admissions committee.
- Scores between 65 and 70 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for admission.
- Scores below 65 will not be considered for admission.
- Any incomplete application will not be considered for admission

Prerequisite Courses

If you are applying from another university, the course titles may be different. Courses in column 4 are examples of course titles that will substitute for prerequisite requirements. Contact the OTD program director to make sure your prerequisite courses are acceptable. Course descriptions for Arkansas State University are in the undergraduate bulletin at www.astate.edu/registrar/.

Subject	Credit Hours	Courses from Arkansas State	*Potential Course Substitutes from Other Universities
Biology	3	BIO 2203: Human Anatomy and Physiology I	Anatomy/Human Functional and Structure I
Biology	1	BIO 2201: Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	Anatomy Lab/ Human Functional and Structure I Lab
Biology	3	BIO 2223: Human Anatomy and Physiology II	Physiology/ Human Functional and Structure II
Biology	1	BIO 2221: Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	Physiology Lab/ Human Functional and Structure II Lab
Health Professions	**1 – 3	HP 2013: Medical Terminology	Healthcare Terminology
Physics	3	PHYS 2133: Physics for Health Professions or PHYS 2054: General Physics (Algebra-based not Calculus-based. Sometimes called “College Physics”.)	General or “College” Physics (Algebra-based not Calculus-based) Physics for Health Science Majors
Psychology	3	PSY 2013: Psychology, Introduction to	General (Introduction to) Psychology
Psychology	3	PSY 2233: Psychology, Abnormal	Abnormal Psychology
Psychology	3	PSY 2133: Psychology, Developmental	Developmental Psychology (“Lifespan Development” is also acceptable.)
Statistics	3	STAT 3033: Statistics for Health Science Majors or STAT 3233: Applied Statistics I or PSY 3103: Quantitative Methods in Psychology or SOC 3383: Social Statistics [Course must include inferential Statistics] (Biostatistics, Business statistics, or Research & Statistical Methods in Exercise Science are not accepted as a substitute)	Applied Statistics/Statistics in Psychology/Statistics in Sociology [Course must include inferential statistics] (Biostatistics, Business statistics, or Research & Statistical Methods in Exercise Science are not accepted as a substitute)



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*If you attend a university/college other than Arkansas State, we advise you to contact Dr. Christine Wright, OTD Program Director, to confirm the acceptance of your prerequisite courses. Contact Dr. Wright at cwright@astate.edu.

**If your Medical Terminology course is less than 3 credits, it may affect your prerequisite GPA. We recommend taking the full 3 credits for Medical Terminology.

Bonus courses: Applicants that have completed courses listed at level 3000 or higher with a grade of A or B can earn up to 5 bonus points. Bonus courses can be in any academic discipline except for athletic courses. Prerequisite courses cannot be used for bonus courses. List your bonus courses on p. 21 of the application.

Application Scoring

The maximum score for any applicant is 100 points. A minimum score of 70 guarantees consideration for admittance to the program. Scores of 65 - 70 may be considered for admittance to the program. A score below 65 will not be considered for admittance to the program.

A. Academic status: The maximum points for academic status is 65. Prerequisite and overall GPA's that fall below 3.0 are not accepted.

Prerequisite GPA points: 40

GPA	Points
3.0 – 3.15	12
3.16 – 3.30	16
3.31 – 3.45	20
3.46 – 3.60	24
3.61 – 3.75	28
3.76 – 3.90	34
3.91 – 4.00	40
Prerequisite GPA score	/40

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Overall GPA points: 20

GPA	Points
3.0 – 3.15	8
3.16 – 3.30	10
3.31 – 3.45	12
3.46 – 3.60	14
3.61 – 3.75	16
3.76 – 3.90	18
3.91 – 4.00	20
Overall GPA score	/20

Bonus courses points: 5

Courses	Points
1 – 2	1
3	2
4	3
5	4
6	5
Bonus courses score	/5

B. Application essay: The maximum points for the application essay is 15.

0 = Does not meet criteria

3 = Meets some but not all of the criteria

5 = Meets criteria

Essay	0	3	5
Factual and Logical (makes sense): The applicant' essay included references. The sequence and presentation of ideas makes sense to the reader.			
Concise (does not ramble): The applicant' essay was free of jargon. The writer did not attempt to "fill space" in the essay with unnecessary or unimportant details.			
Depth of Reflection: The applicant communicates to the reader a thought out, clear point of view. The applicant demonstrates a passion and excitement for the profession. The applicant provides detailed information.			
Total score for essay: /15			

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C. Community/Volunteer Service: The maximum points for community service are 10.

Community Service – applicant must provide evidence of 30 hours of community service (unpaid) work. Twenty of the thirty hours must be at a single facility. All 30 hours can be completed at one facility. Community service does not need to be at a health care facility or other organization that has Occupational Therapy. The applicant must provide written documentation of their service.

Documentation must include:

1. Letter, on agency letterhead, from the applicant's supervisor verifying the date, purpose, and number of the community service hours completed.
2. A one-page summary that includes:
 - a. A description of the community service hours.
 - b. The role and associated activities attended to by the applicant.
 - c. The mission of the entity served.
 - d. Self-reflection of the volunteer experience.

Service	Points
Completed all 30 service hours with a minimum of 20 hours at a single location.	10
Completed 20 hours at one location but not the full 30 required hours.	5
Completed less than 30 hours of community service or did not complete 20 hours at one location.	0
Community/Volunteer Service score	/10

D. 3 OTCAS requested evaluations: The maximum points for the pre-professional recommendations are 10. The Pre-professional rater must return the evaluation form in a sealed envelope with the rater's signature across seal.

Applicant's Attribute Score	Points
18 - 32	1
33 - 47	2
48 - 62	3
63 - 77	4
78 - 90	5
Attribute Score Average	/5

Rater Recommendation Score	Points
Not able to recommend	0
Recommend with reservation	1
Recommend	3
Highly recommend	5
Rater Score Average	/5

Final Application Score and Ranking

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An applicant's total score is calculated by summing $A + B + C + D = \frac{\text{sum}}{100}$. The admission committee ranks the applicants in numerical order highest to lowest. The top 30 applicants receive a position in the program. Remaining eligible applicants are ranked from 31 onward and placed on a waiting list. If a top 30 applicant declines, the admissions committee offers the position to the next applicant on the waiting list. The waiting list remains open until the first day of the fall semester. All remaining applicants are notified that they are declined a position in the program.

Spanish Proficiency Bonus

Spanish proficiency is not required for application but can enhance the applicant's overall score. Students must prove their proficiency by taking the ACTFL – OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview). Spanish proficiency scores must be submitted **before February 1**. Additional information can be found at <http://www.languageTesting.com/oral---proficiency---interview---op>

Students Applying to the AState OTD Program from non-AState Undergraduate Programs

The AState OTD program does not admit students preferentially with a baccalaureate degree from AState and/or prerequisite coursework from AState.

To be considered for the AState OTD program, an applicant must complete a baccalaureate degree from an accredited school recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and a regional accrediting body. Pre-requisite coursework must also be completed from an accredited school recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and a regional accrediting body. If an applicant takes any OTD prerequisites at another school, the OTD program director may request a copy of the course syllabus to assure that the course covers the same content as the Arkansas State University prerequisite courses.

To ensure that prerequisites from other schools will meet the AState OTD program requirements, applicants are encouraged to request course reviews from the OTD program director/Department Chair prior to applying.

Pre-requisite requirements from an accredited university other than AState:

- **Anatomy I and II with labs (2000 or higher):** Minimum of a 2000 level and a grade of B or higher. If the course is not at the 2000 level or at least 3 credits, the applicant must seek permission from the Department Chair to accept the course.
- **Medical Terminology (1000 or higher):** 1 – 3 credit hours and a grade of B or higher in an undergraduate (1000 level or above). If your Medical Terminology course is less than 3 credits, it may affect your prerequisite GPA. We recommend taking the full 3 credits for Medical Terminology even if more than one course needs to be completed.
- **Physics (2000 level or higher):** Minimum of 3 credit hours and a grade of B or higher. Physics lab is not required. If the course is not at the 2000 level or at least 3 credits, the applicant must seek permission from the Department Chair to accept the course.
- **Introduction to Psychology (1000 level or higher):** Minimum of 3 credit hours with a grade of B or higher. If the course is not at least 3 credits, the

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applicant must seek permission from the Department Chair to accept the course.

- **Abnormal Psychology (2000 level or higher):** Minimum of 3 credit hours with a grade of B or higher. If the course is not at the 2000 level or at least 3 credits, the applicant must seek permission from the Department Chair to accept the course.
- **Developmental Psychology (2000 level or higher):** Minimum of 3 credit hours with a grade of B or higher. If the course is not at the 2000 level or at least 3 credits, the applicant must seek permission from the Department Chair to accept the course.
- **Applied Statistics (2000 level or higher):** Minimum of 3 credit hours and a grade of B or higher. If the course is not at the 2000 level or at least 3 credits, the applicant must seek permission from the Department Chair to accept course.

English Proficiency Requirements

The Department of Occupational Therapy requires a high level of proficiency in English so that all students will be able to fully meet academic and clinical objectives as well as meet criteria for professional licensure. All *foreign-born students must take one of the following tests:

1. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a score of 83 on the preferred internet-based test (iBT), 570 on the paper-based test, or 213 on the computer-based test.
2. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a score of at least 6.5 and a spoken band score of 7.
3. Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE) with a score of 56.

The TOEFL is available at the A-STATE Testing Center. When taking the exam off campus, the report code for Arkansas State University is 6011.

Advanced Placement

The admissions process for the Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program requires letter grades to determine overall and prerequisite GPA's, therefore, AP exam scores will be calculated in the following manner: Exam scores of 3 or above are three credits at a grade level of B.

Credit for Experiential Learning or Work Experience

Experiential learning and prior work experience are not accepted as substitutes for academic requirements.

Transfer Students

Transfer students will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Students that are currently enrolled in another accredited OTD program may apply to the AState OTD program using the regular admissions process. Should a transfer student be admitted to the AState OTD program, up to nine graduate credit hours may be used to satisfy degree requirements of the OTD. The OT department admissions committee reviews syllabi from previous OT program and determines which courses meet AState OTD standards. The OT department admissions committee and AState graduate school determine if a student may transfer.

Application Procedure

1. Create account and apply to OTCAS at <https://otcas.cas.myliaison.com/applicant-ux/#/login>.
2. Submit completed OTCAS application. All OTCAS applications must be **VERIFIED** on or before **February 1st**. We recommend submitting your OTCAS application no later than January 5th. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Late applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Students will be notified of their acceptance status by **March 31**.
3. Apply to the graduate school at Arkansas State University. Application instructions can be found online at <http://www.astate.edu/info/admissions/graduate/how-to-apply/>.
4. Submit all immunization records to the graduate school. **DO NOT** send any records to the Occupational Therapy department.

Questions: For questions regarding the application, please contact **Dr. Christine Wright**, Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy at cwright@astate.edu. Please send questions via email. Messages left by phone are difficult to return during application season between August 1 and April 30.

Summary

The admissions committee only evaluates complete applications submitted on or before February 1. No exceptions. The applicant is solely responsible for reading and following all instructions.

Felony Conviction Statement

****A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.**

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action

(<https://catalog.astate.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=240>)

Arkansas State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer with a strong institutional commitment to the achievement of excellence and diversity among its faculty and staff. To that end, the university provides opportunities in employment practices, admission, and treatment of students without regard to color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, age, national origin, religion, marital status,



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veteran status, genetic information, or disability. Arkansas State University complies with all applicable federal and state legislation and does not discriminate on the basis of any unlawful criteria.

Questions regarding this policy should be addressed to the Affirmative Action Program Coordinator, P.O. Box 1500, State University, Arkansas 72467. Telephone (870) 972-2015.

Background Check

Based on recent legislation in Arkansas, students are required to complete a background check AFTER they receive conditional admission into the program. Arkansas State University's College of Nursing and Health Professions works with Verified Credentials, Inc. to establish an acceptable screening procedure. The cost of the background check is \$100.

The Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program requires all OTD students to carry personal health insurance. Students must provide hard copy proof of health insurance to the department Chair after acceptance into the program. Students must provide proof of health insurance by mail, fax, or hand delivery no later than August 1 every year in the program. Clear copies of both sides of insurance card will suffice as proof.

ASate OTD students are required to carry a minimum of \$1,000,000 (one million) of liability insurance the entire time they are in the program. Student liability insurance cost varies but typically does not exceed \$90 per year.

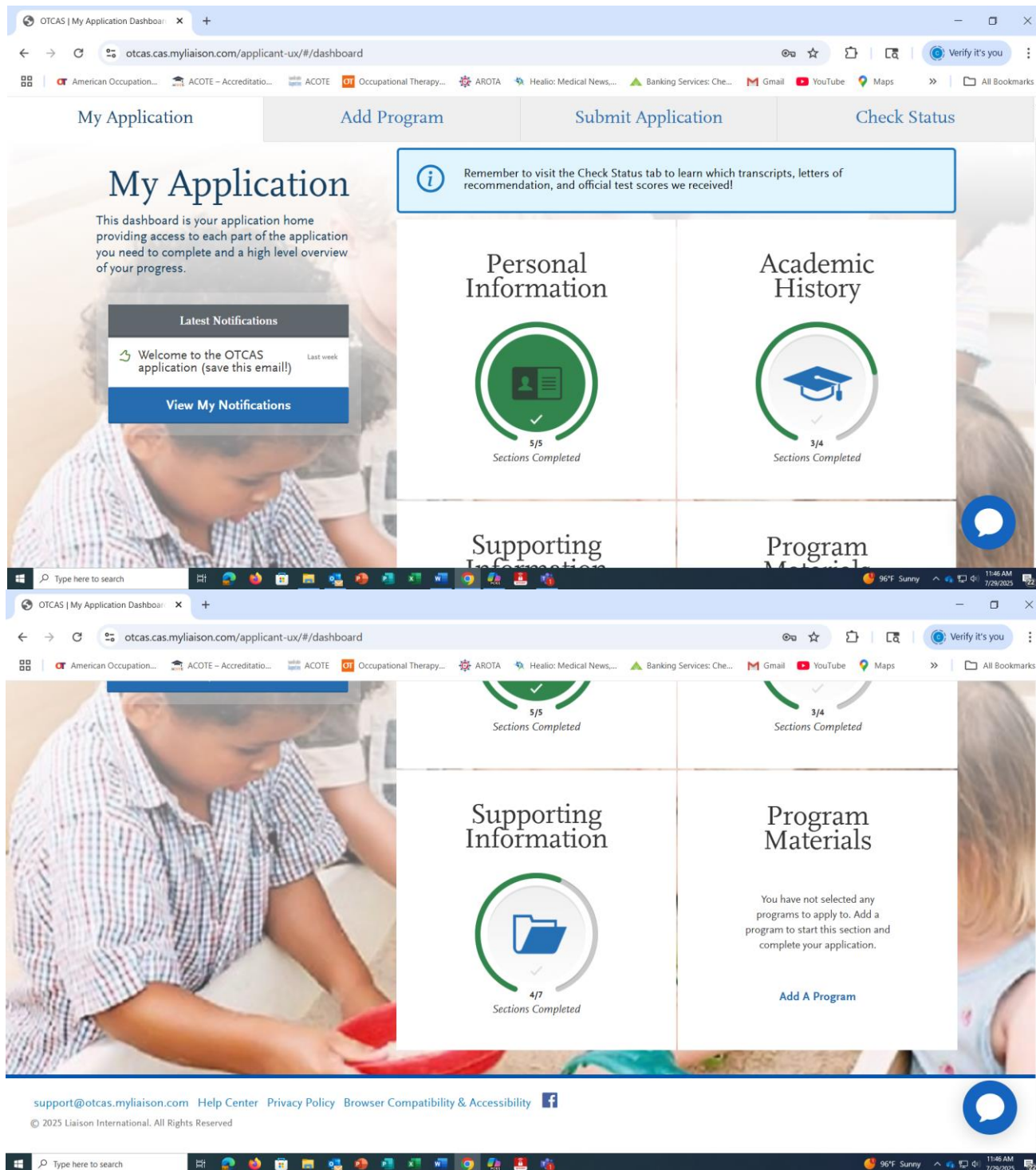


**Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program
OTCAS Application Information and Instructions**



OTCAS Instructions

OTCAS Application Sections



The screenshot displays the OTCAS My Application Dashboard. The top navigation bar includes links for "My Application", "Add Program", "Submit Application", and "Check Status". A blue notification box at the top right reminds users to visit the "Check Status" tab for transcripts, letters of recommendation, and test scores.

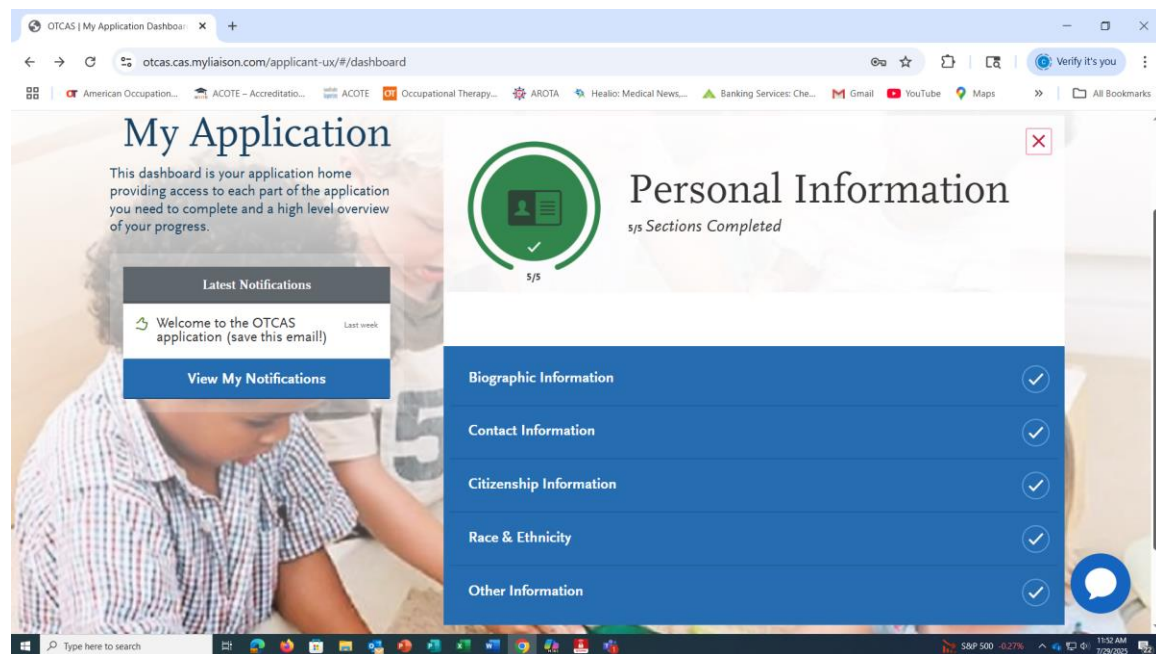
The dashboard features four main sections, each with a progress indicator (a green circle with a checkmark and a percentage):

- Personal Information:** 5/5 Sections Completed
- Academic History:** 3/4 Sections Completed
- Supporting Information:** 4/7 Sections Completed
- Program Materials:** A message states, "You have not selected any programs to apply to. Add a program to start this section and complete your application." with a blue "Add A Program" button.

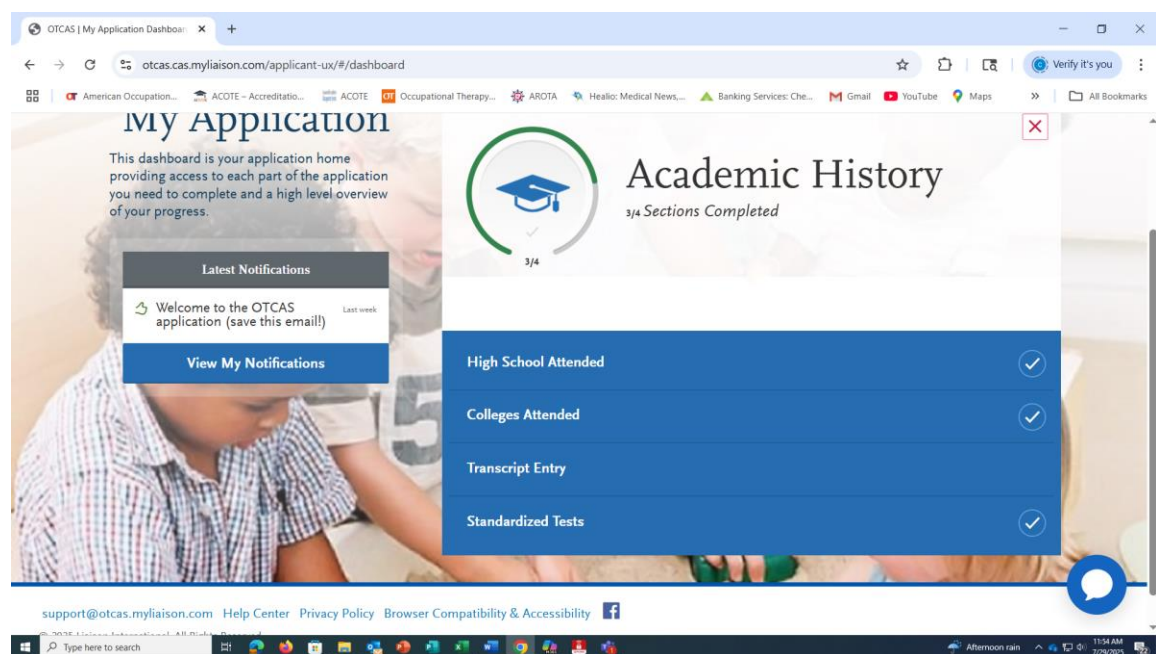
A "Latest Notifications" box on the left side of the dashboard contains a welcome message and a "View My Notifications" button. The bottom of the page includes contact information for support@otcas.myliaison.com, a Help Center, Privacy Policy, and Browser Compatibility & Accessibility link, along with a copyright notice for 2025 Liaison International.

The first 3 sections of the application contain information required by the OTCAS system. Section 4 is for specific information required for Arkansas State OTD application.

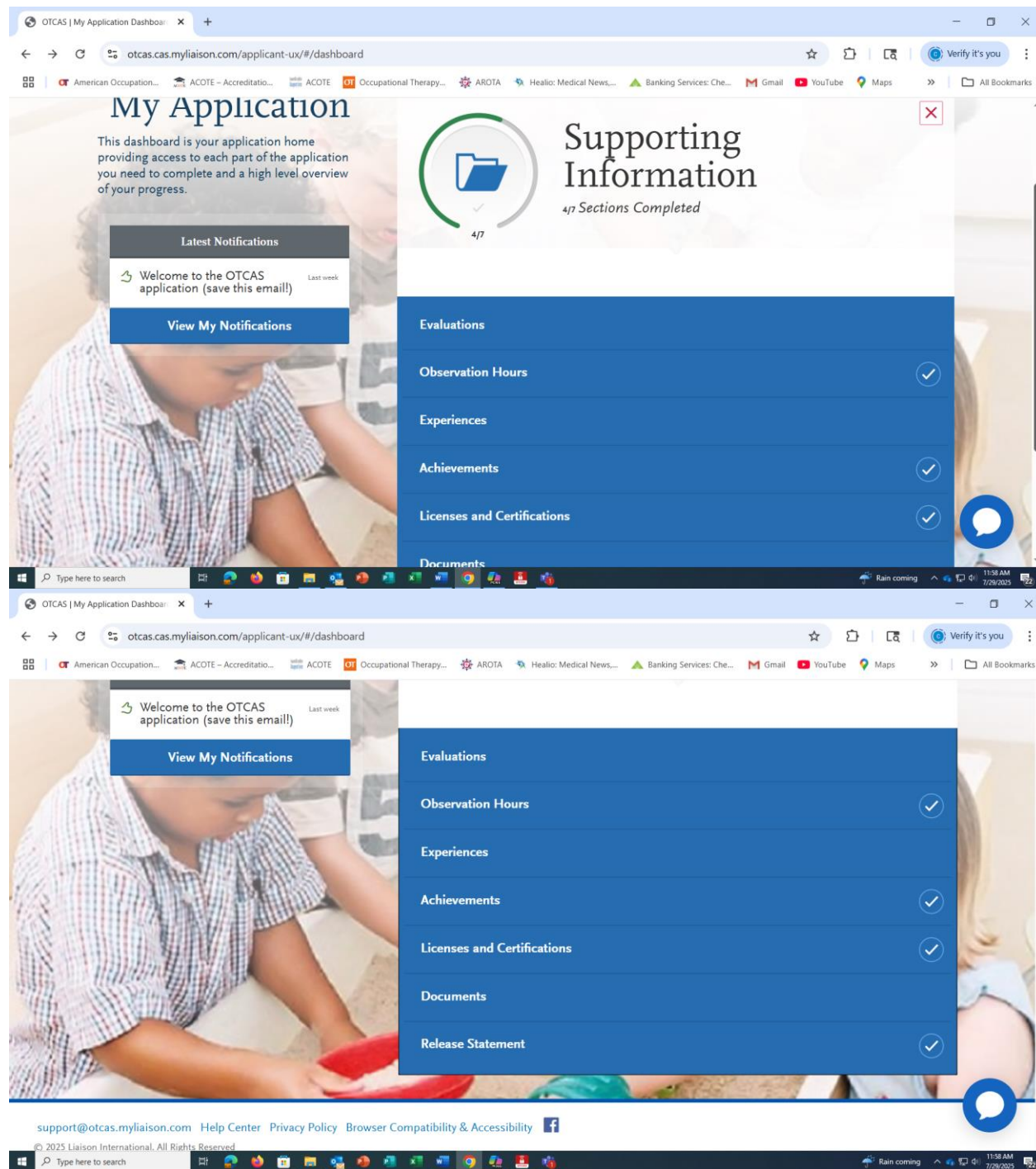
Section 1: Personal Information - Consists of basic information to describe who you are. Complete all sections.



Section 2: Academic History - Consists of information about your academic history. We do not require any standardized tests like the GRE so you can select "none" for that section.



Section 3: Supporting Information - Section 3 includes your recommendation evaluations and personal statement. We do not require observation hours, but if you have hours you may list them in this section. You may also list resume items such as work experience in this section.



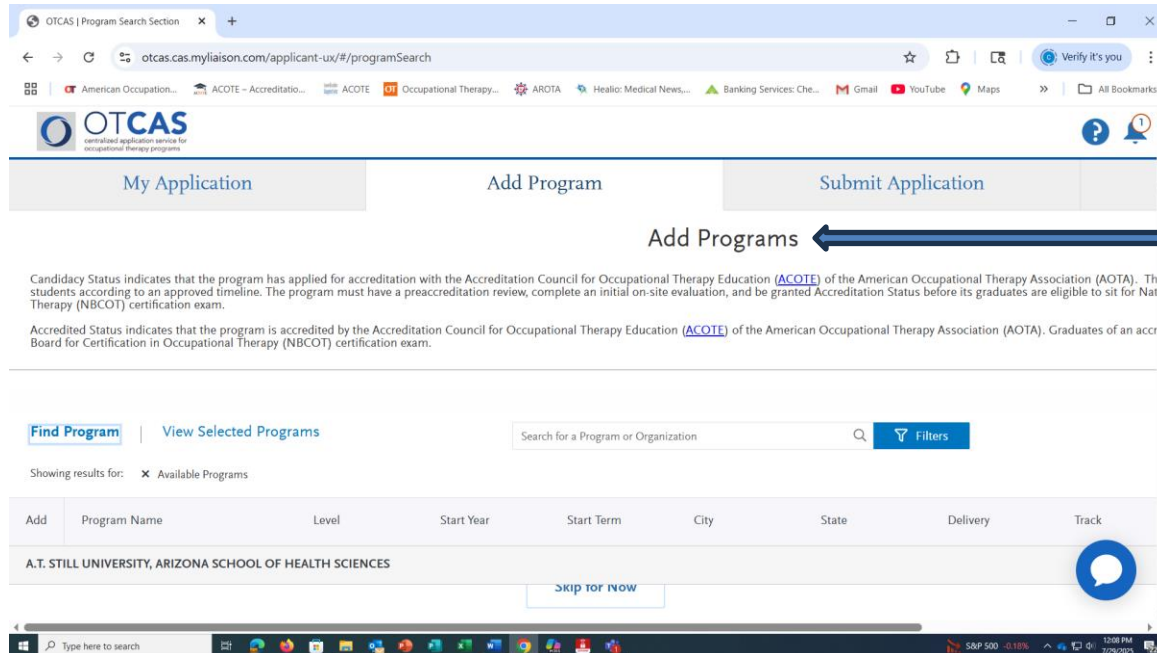
The screenshot displays the OTCAS My Application Dashboard. The main heading is "My Application", with a subtext: "This dashboard is your application home providing access to each part of the application you need to complete and a high level overview of your progress." Below this, there is a "Latest Notifications" box with a message: "Welcome to the OTCAS application (save this email!)" and a "View My Notifications" button. The central part of the dashboard features a large circular progress indicator showing "4/7" sections completed, with the heading "Supporting Information". To the right of the progress indicator is a list of application sections, each with a checkmark indicating completion status:

- Evaluations
- Observation Hours
- Experiences
- Achievements
- Licenses and Certifications
- Documents
- Release Statement

At the bottom of the dashboard, there is a footer with the following links: support@otcas.myliaison.com, [Help Center](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and [Browser Compatibility & Accessibility](#). The footer also includes a copyright notice: "© 2025 Liaison International. All Rights Reserved".

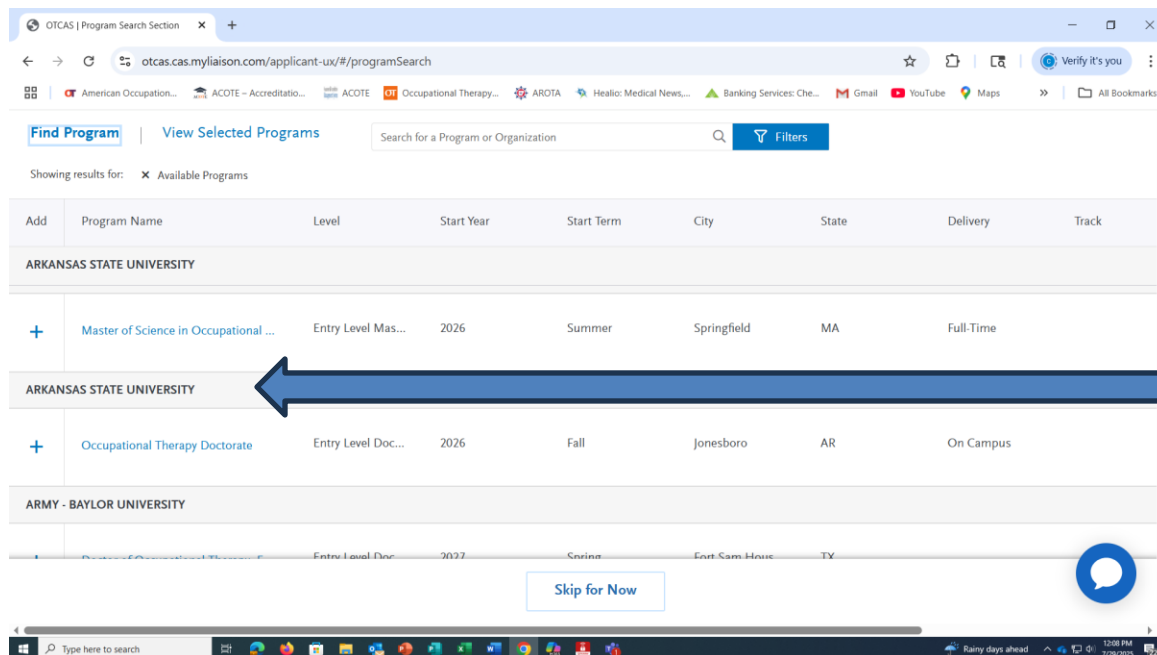
Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program OTCAS Application Information and Instructions

Section 4: Program Materials - Section 4 is for adding Arkansas State OTD program as your choice or one of your choices to send your application. Click on "Add a Program" in the Program Materials Box. Once you click, you will see this page:



The screenshot shows the OTCAS Program Search Section interface. At the top, there are three tabs: "My Application", "Add Program", and "Submit Application". Below these tabs, there is a section titled "Add Programs" with a blue arrow pointing to it. The main content area displays a table of available programs. The first row shows "A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY, ARIZONA SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES". A blue arrow points to the "Add Programs" button, which is located at the bottom right of the table.

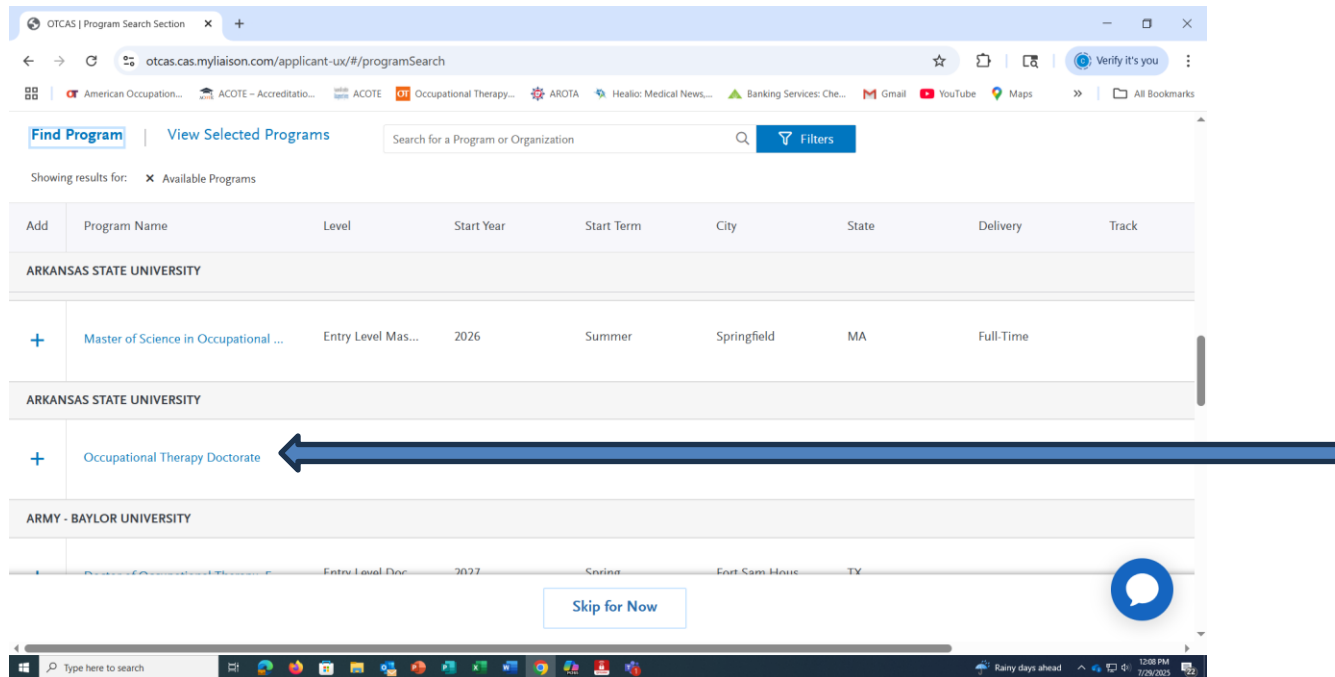
Scroll down to where it says Arkansas State University.



The screenshot shows the OTCAS Program Search Section interface, scrolled down to show the "Arkansas State University" entry. The table lists several programs, including "Master of Science in Occupational ..." and "Occupational Therapy Doctorate". A blue arrow points to the "Arkansas State University" entry, which is highlighted in the table.

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Click on "Occupational Therapy Doctorate".



OTCAS | Program Search Section

otcas.cas.myliaison.com/applicant-ux/#/programSearch

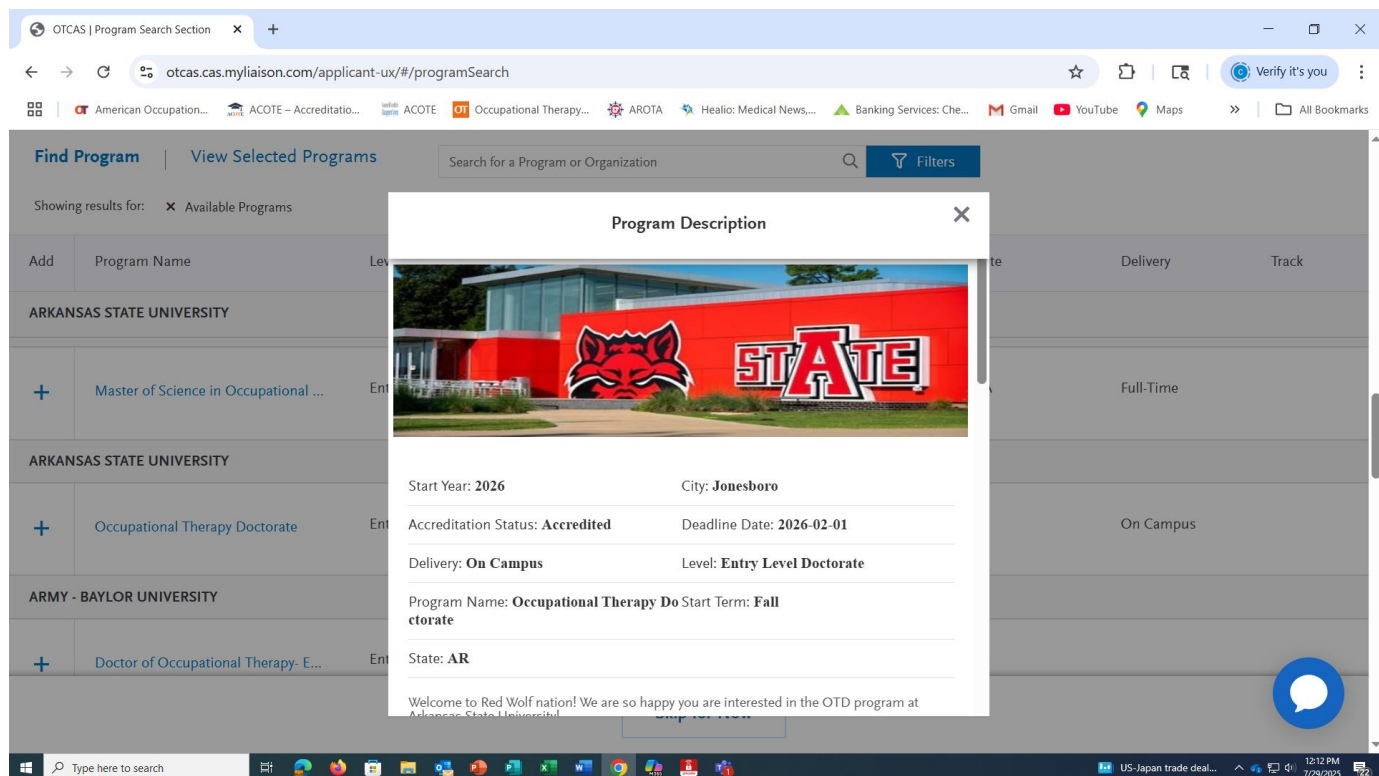
Find Program | View Selected Programs

Showing results for: Available Programs

Add	Program Name	Level	Start Year	Start Term	City	State	Delivery	Track
ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY								
+	Master of Science in Occupational ...	Entry Level Mas...	2026	Summer	Springfield	MA	Full-Time	
ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY								
+	Occupational Therapy Doctorate							
ARMY - BAYLOR UNIVERSITY								
+	Doctor of Occupational Therapy: E...	Entry Level Do...	2027	Spring	Fort Sam. Hou...	TX		

Skip for Now

When you click on "Occupational Therapy Doctorate", our program description box pops up.



OTCAS | Program Search Section


otcas.cas.myliaison.com/applicant-ux/#/programSearch

Find Program | View Selected Programs

Showing results for: Available Programs

Add	Program Name	Level	Start Year	Start Term	City	State	Delivery	Track
ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY								
+	Master of Science in Occupational ...	Entry Level Mas...	2026	Summer	Springfield	MA	Full-Time	
ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY								
+	Occupational Therapy Doctorate							
ARMY - BAYLOR UNIVERSITY								
+	Doctor of Occupational Therapy: E...	Entry Level Do...	2027	Spring	Fort Sam. Hou...	TX		

Program Description



Start Year: 2026 City: Jonesboro

Accreditation Status: Accredited Deadline Date: 2026-02-01

Delivery: On Campus Level: Entry Level Doctorate

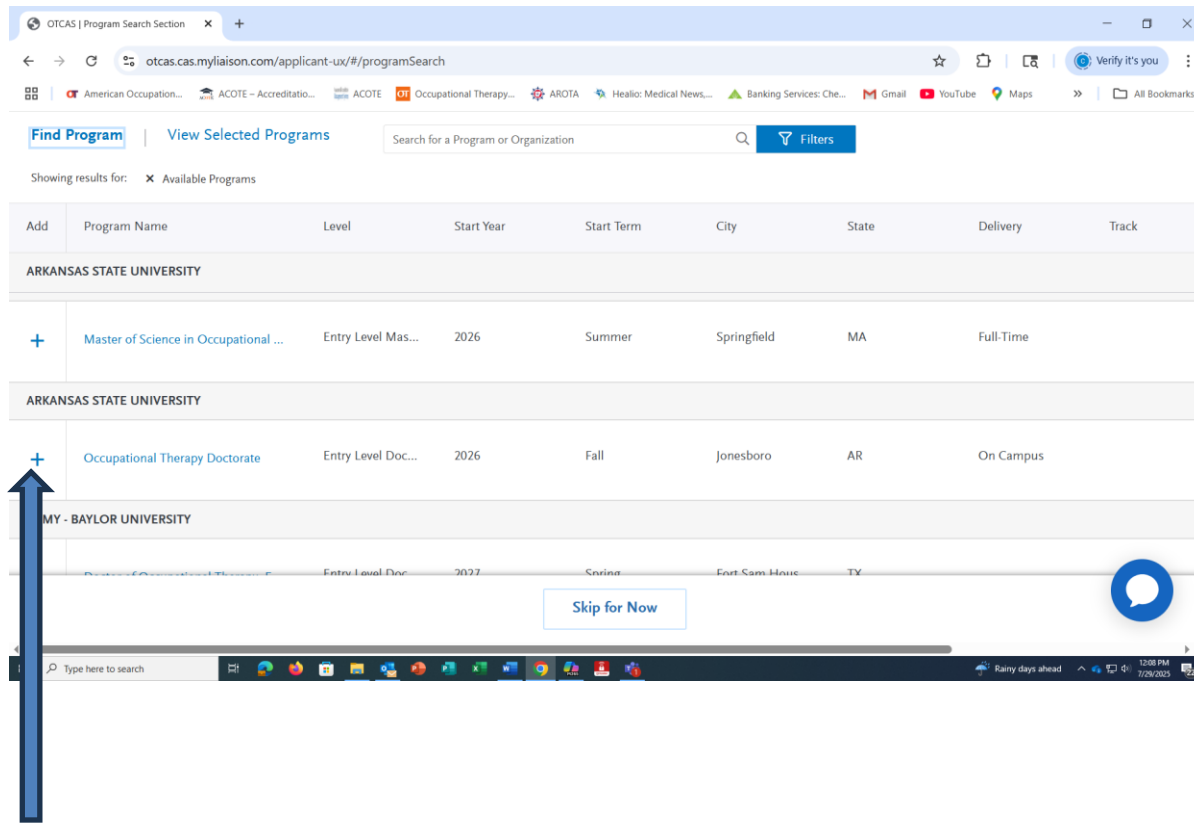
Program Name: Occupational Therapy Do Start Term: Fall
ctorate

State: AR

Welcome to Red Wolf nation! We are so happy you are interested in the OTD program at Arkansas State University!

Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program OTCAS Application Information and Instructions

To add Arkansas State University OTD program to your application, click on "+" sign next to our program name.



OTCAS | Program Search Section

otcas.cas.myliaison.com/applicant-ux/#/programSearch

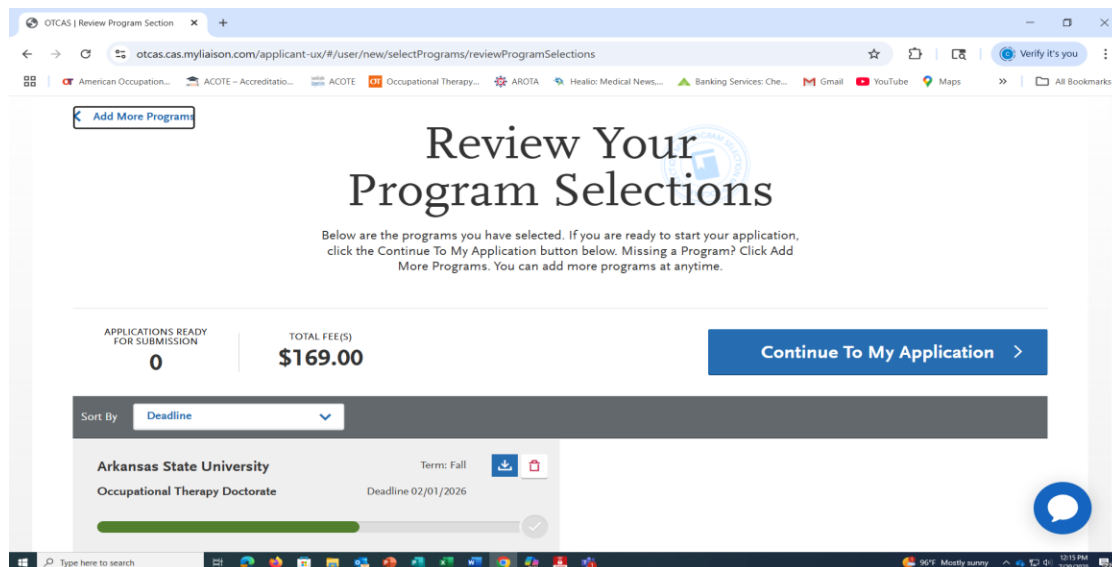
Find Program | View Selected Programs

Showing results for: Available Programs

Add	Program Name	Level	Start Year	Start Term	City	State	Delivery	Track
ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY								
+	Master of Science in Occupational ...	Entry Level Mas...	2026	Summer	Springfield	MA	Full-Time	
ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY								
+	Occupational Therapy Doctorate	Entry Level Doc...	2026	Fall	Jonesboro	AR	On Campus	
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY								

Skip for Now

Once you add a program, you will be taken to the payment screen. An application with a single program is \$169.00. Each additional program selection is \$71.00.



OTCAS | Review Program Section

otcas.cas.myliaison.com/applicant-ux/#/user/new/selectPrograms/reviewProgramSelections

Add More Programs

Review Your Program Selections

Below are the programs you have selected. If you are ready to start your application, click the Continue To My Application button below. Missing a Program? Click Add More Programs. You can add more programs at anytime.

APPLICATIONS READY FOR SUBMISSION

0

TOTAL FEE(S)

\$169.00

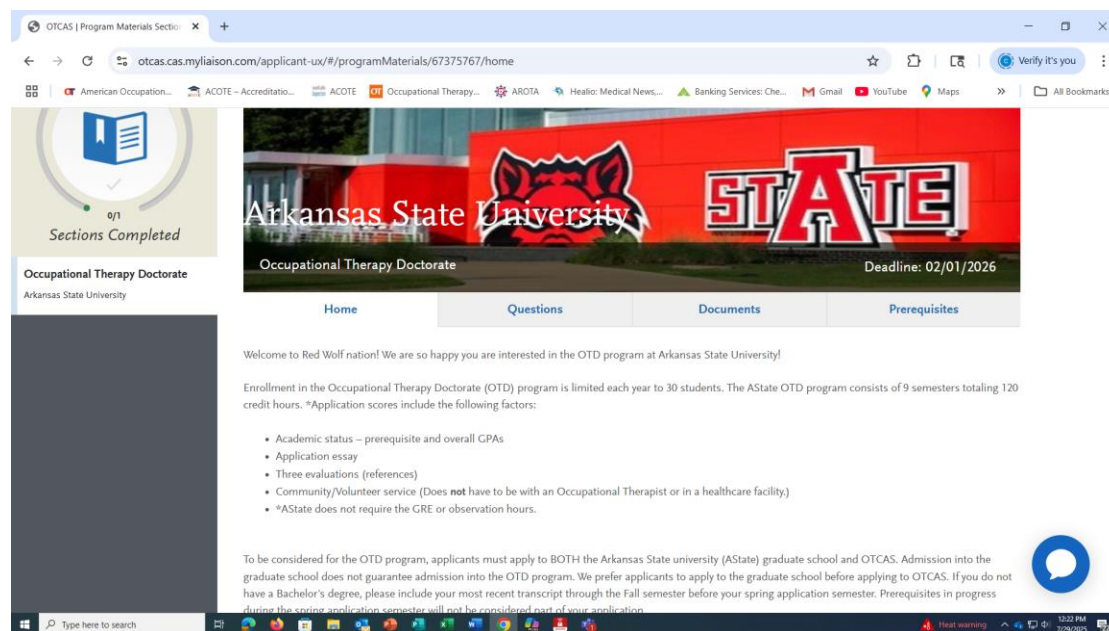
Continue To My Application >

Sort By: Deadline

Arkansas State University	Term: Fall
Occupational Therapy Doctorate	Deadline 02/01/2026

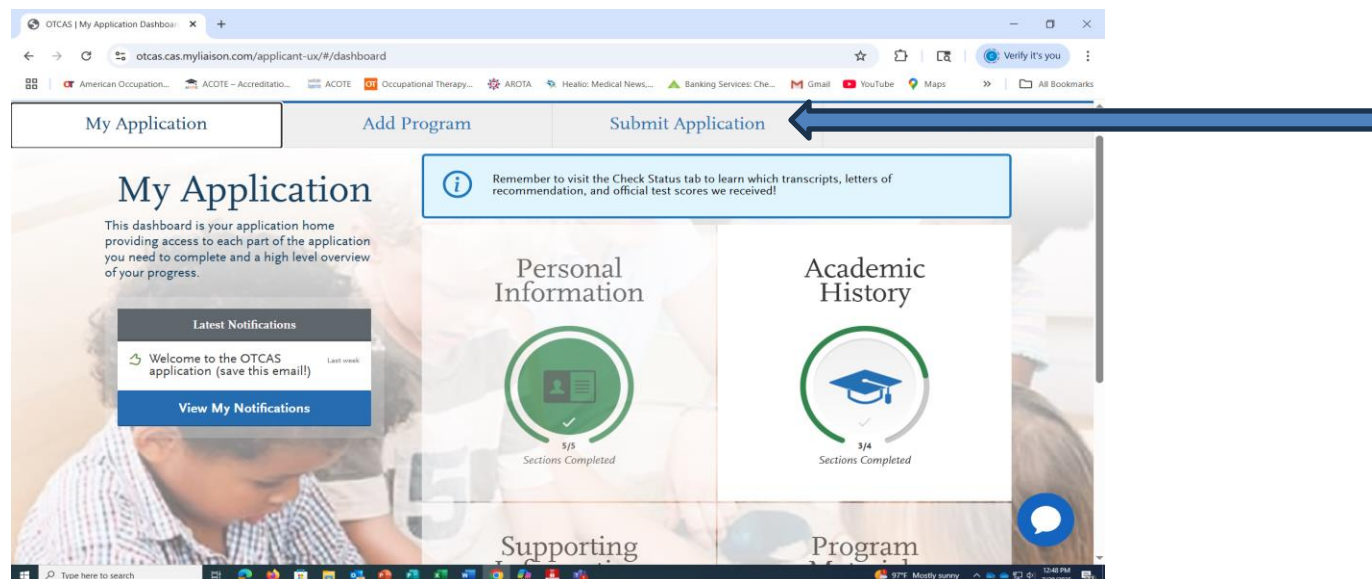
Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program OTCAS Application Information and Instructions

Once you select our program, you will go back to the section 4 and select the "Arkansas State OTD" link. Once you click on the link, you will land on our program page.

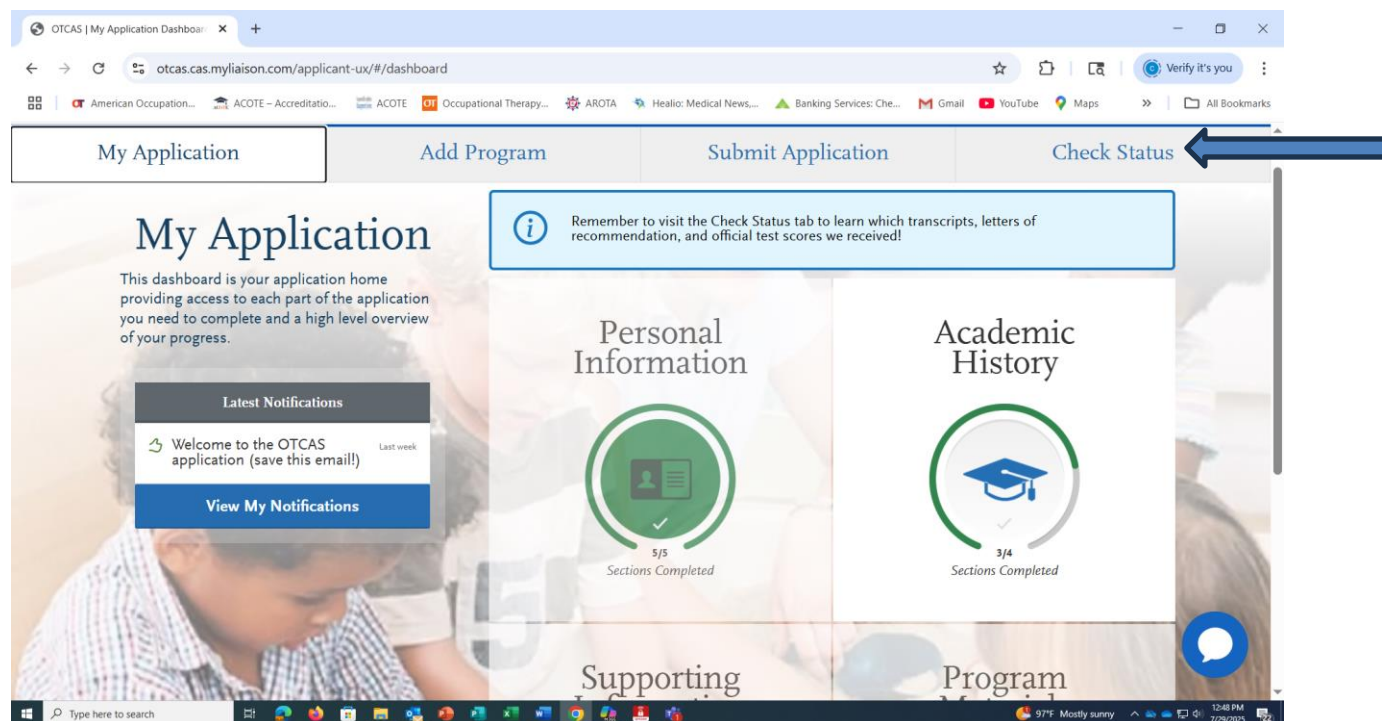


Click on the "Questions" tab to complete your essay. Click on the "Documents" tab to upload your volunteer reflections and signed documentation of your completed hours. The prerequisites tab will prompt you to go back and check your transcript to make sure you have all the required courses.

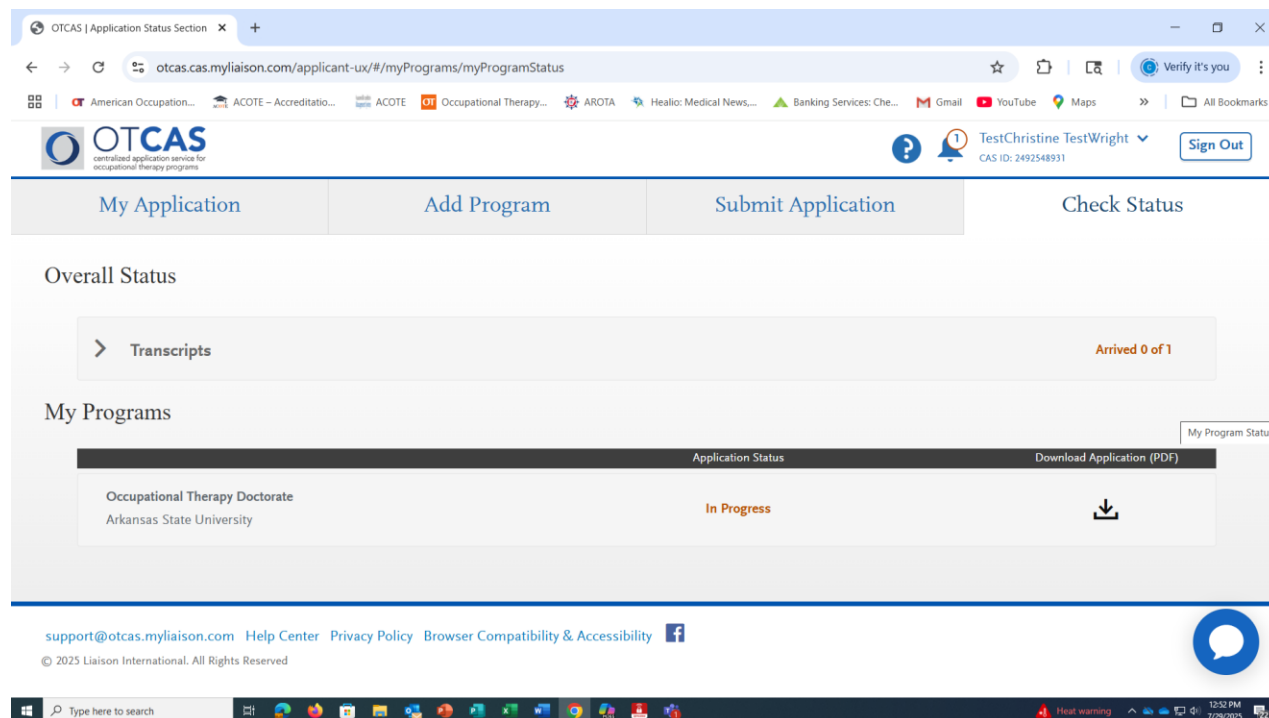
Once you have completed the entire application, review your materials for accuracy. When you are happy with your information, click "submit application".



After you submit your application, you can check on the progress of your application by clicking on "check status".



The screenshot shows the OTCAS My Application Dashboard. The top navigation bar includes links for "My Application", "Add Program", "Submit Application", and "Check Status". A blue arrow points to the "Check Status" link. The main content area features a "My Application" section with a welcome message and a "View My Notifications" button. Below this are two progress indicators: "Personal Information" (5/5 Sections Completed) and "Academic History" (3/4 Sections Completed). A blue chat bubble is visible in the bottom right corner.



The screenshot shows the OTCAS Application Status Section. The top navigation bar includes links for "My Application", "Add Program", "Submit Application", and "Check Status". The main content area features an "Overall Status" section with a "Transcripts" link and a status of "Arrived 0 of 1". Below this is a "My Programs" section with a table showing the application status for the Occupational Therapy Doctorate program at Arkansas State University, which is currently "In Progress". A "Download Application (PDF)" button is also visible. The footer includes contact information and a copyright notice.