The National Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy Schools

In an effort to simplify the application process for prospective occupational therapist (OT) students and to facilitate the admissions process for professional OT educational programs, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) launched OTCAS in August 2010. OTCAS processes applications to master’s and doctoral occupational therapy programs at participating schools nationwide. Over 90 programs in 32 states are affiliated with OTCAS.

OTCAS allows OT applicants to use a single Web-based application and one set of materials to apply to multiple OT programs.

Applicants pay $125 to submit their first school designation and $45 for each subsequent designation.

OTCAS will

- Receive and process all applicant documentation
- Provide superior customer service
- Verify submitted applications
- Calculate GPAs
- Send application materials electronically to applicant designated programs
- Provide information and technology for schools to make admissions decisions

Why use OTCAS?

Schools will benefit from the efficiencies gained by standardizing the admissions process and having real-time access to pre-screened and verified applicant data. Schools also will be able to select from a wider, more diverse pool of students, which will be helpful in meeting recruitment goals.

- Participation is free and voluntary
- Serves as a mechanism to fill vacant seats in OT schools
- For schools already at maximum capacity in terms of applications, it provides some much needed relief by offering a convenient and efficient way to manage applicant data
- Assists in developing workforce projections, future trends, and recruitment strategies
- Attracts diverse and out-of-state applicants, serves as marketing tool
- Can complement an existing application process or replace it entirely