

Occupational Therapy MSc(OT) Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why Graduate Studies in Occupational Therapy?

Occupational therapy is a dynamic, growing, and internationally recognized health profession which for close to a century has been helping to improve the lives and daily experience of children, adults, and communities by focusing on what is fundamental to us all - the daily occupations that give life meaning. As humans we engage in occupation to be productive, to learn, to recreate, and to take care of our most basic needs. Occupation is what gives purpose to our daily lives and connects us to our communities. Occupational therapists are specialists in the use of occupation to prevent disability, restore health, and ensure that all individuals and populations, regardless of health status, can experience full and meaningful lives.

Why Queen's?

Here at Queen's University we are pleased to offer a graduate level educational program that prepares students to become experts in facilitating occupations and leaders in the occupational therapy field within broadening, complex, and ever-changing health care environments. This program is designed to prepare you for entry-level practice as an Occupational Therapist.

Program Structure

MSc (OT) (24 months): coursework and fieldwork placements, followed by a national exam to gain eligibility for provincial registration.

The program is structured with fieldwork placements occurring alternately with academic blocks. Each student completes three clinical and one community development fieldwork placement (~1,100 hours in total).



"What I enjoyed about the program at Queen's is that they emphasized the importance of building a therapeutic relationship with your clients and working as a team with other healthcare professionals." –Yoon Kwon, MSc(OT)

The majority of fieldwork placements are arranged through approved service delivery sites in the Queen's catchment area (Cornwall in the east, Renfrew County in the north, and Ajax/Aurora in the west). Students are required to cover the costs associated with fieldwork placements. Placements are assigned with consideration for preferences, based upon the available offers and opportunities for all students to meet program requirements. International fieldwork placements are possible for students in the second year of the program. A full description of the Program Objectives, Curriculum Design, and Academic Course Descriptions can be found on the [School of Rehabilitation Therapy \(SRT\) website](#).

Topics Covered

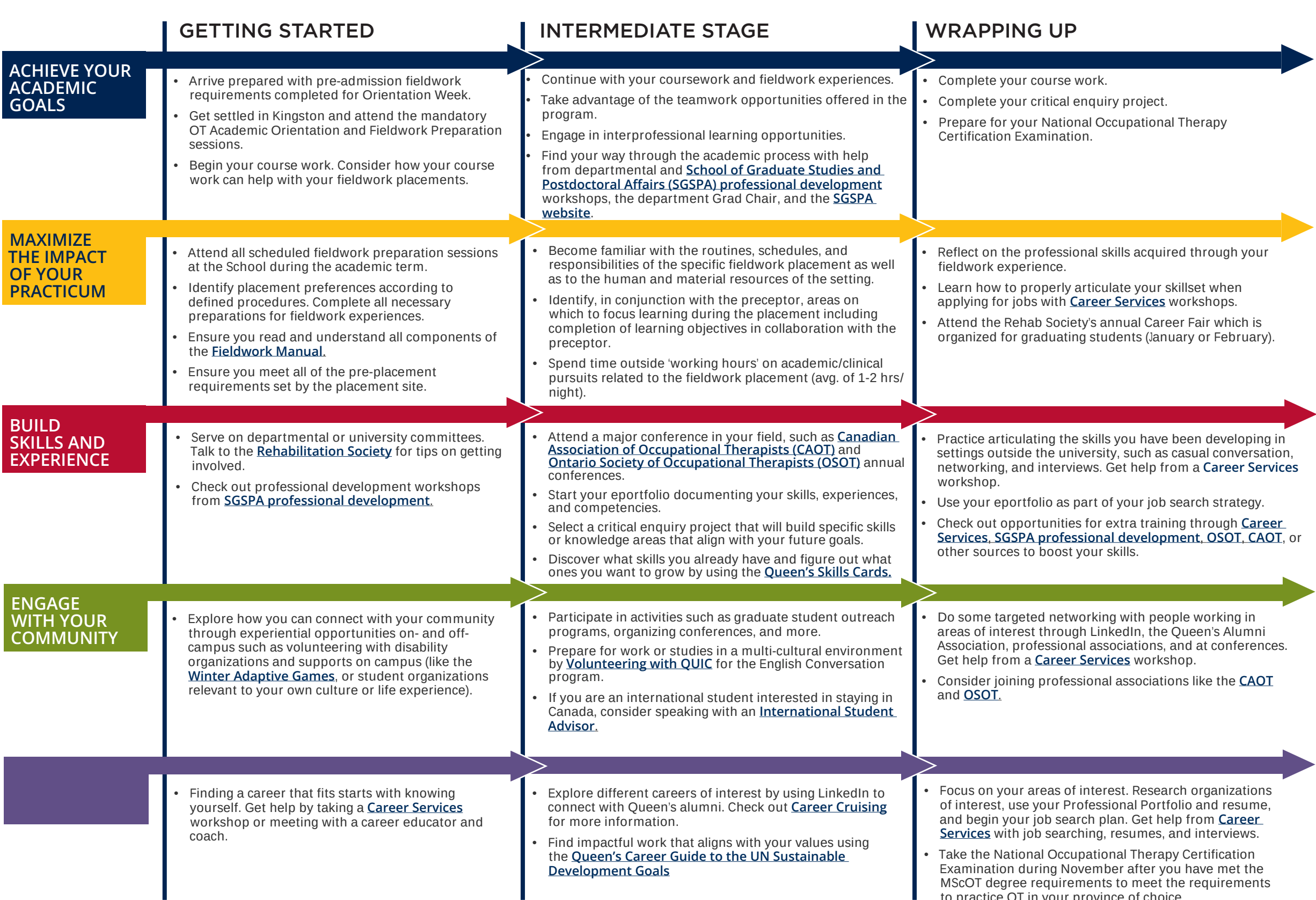
- **Communication Skills:** Therapeutic relationships, counselling and coaching; interprofessional practice
- **Community Development:** Health policy and promotion; occupational approaches to community and population change

- **Critical Inquiry:** Fundamentals of evidence-based practice; methodologies for research, evaluation and knowledge translation; critical enquiry project
- **Determinants of Occupation:** Factors that contribute to occupational performance
- **Fundamentals of Occupational Therapy:** Occupational approaches to enabling performance and participation of individuals with disability and other challenges across the lifespan



Occupational Therapy MSc(OT) Map

MASTER OF SCIENCE (OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY) MSc(OT)



Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool: .

Knowledge & Workplace Skills

A graduate degree in Occupational Therapy can equip you with:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize, and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Perseverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness, an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research, and cultural humility
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

Career Possibilities

Since Occupational Therapists are regulated health professionals, the National Occupational Therapy Certification Examination (NOTCE) is required to become a practicing OT in Canada. It is used to test candidates on both academic and professional knowledge. Each province in Canada has its own regulations that must be met by the OT candidate. Specific requirements can be found by contacting the [provincial regulatory organization](#) for the province of choice. The NOTCE is written at the end of your studies, typically in November.

A Master's degree in Occupational Therapy can take your career in many directions within the field of OT. Our Master's students are equipped for challenging opportunities in:

- Community and home care programs
- Community development in Canada and internationally
- Family health teams
- Government
- Hospitals
- Private practice clinics
- Rehabilitation centres
- Schools

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Professional Development Plan (PDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the [SGSPA website](#) for available resources.

What is the community like?

Queen's offers graduate students from every discipline a close-knit intellectual community where they can learn, discover, and build lasting connections. With more than 130 graduate programs across 50+ departments and research centres, students benefit from world-class scholars, prize-winning professional development, generous funding packages, and life in the historic waterfront city of Kingston. The campus sits at the heart of Kingston, just a 10-minute walk from downtown's shops, restaurants, and waterfront, and is deeply integrated with the local community. For more on Kingston's history and culture, see Queen's University's Discover Kingston page.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to Apply?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- To be eligible for admission, students must have a four-year baccalaureate degree or equivalent with a minimum second-class standing from a recognized university.
- **Grade requirements:** Upper second-class standing (B+). We consider applicants' cumulative converted GPA on a 4.0 scale for all years of undergraduate university study. Our students typically have a cumulative GPA of 80% or higher.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Intent (two essay questions which are found embedded in the ORPAS application created by the applicant.)
- Resume
- Two Confidential Reference Forms (downloadable from ORPAS application)
- Description of career goals and how the completion of the graduate degree contributes to their achievement
- If English is not a first language, nor was the language of instruction in undergraduate studies, prospective students must meet English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening as part of the application process, and before final acceptance is granted, as per School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' regulations.
- We offer Indigenous applicants the opportunity to self-identify and be considered under the Queen's School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' Indigenous Students policy. Students can also choose not to self-identify and apply through the general admission process.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** early January. Note that applications for Occupational Therapy at Queen's are all made through the Ontario Rehabilitation Science Programs Application Service (ORPAS) which can be accessed through the OUAC website. The ORPAS application site opens mid-October, the deadline is early January.
- **Notification of acceptance:** mid May

Before you start your application, please review the information on the [ORPAS website](#) for Queen's applications.

