



AT THE FOREFRONT

**UChicago
Medicine**



American
Occupational Therapy
Association

Fellowship Program

University of Chicago Acute Care Occupational Therapy Fellowship Program

Mission of Occupational Therapy Acute Care Fellowship Program: The mission of University of Chicago Medical Center Occupational Therapy Acute Care Fellowship program is to provide a professional development opportunity to prepare occupational therapists to become a board certified clinical specialist in the area of physical rehabilitation through didactic education, participation in research, professionally mentored patient care experiences and independent patient care within the hospital setting. -The program will emphasize the development of advanced psychomotor skills, theoretical rationales, evidence based techniques, and complex clinical reasoning to enhance the fellow's ability to evaluate and treat patients with complex medical conditions in an acute and critical care setting. The program graduate will be an occupational therapist clinical specialist who will be an ongoing resource for the University of Chicago Medical Center and the occupational therapy and medical community by promoting rehabilitation, health, and wellness, for the persons they serve in the hospital setting.

The Goals of the Occupational Therapy Fellowship Programs at UChicago Medicine are:

To provide a post professional, specialty defined (physical disabilities) educational experience to occupational therapists who will be better able to:

1. Utilize current evidence- based Occupational Therapy information to make accurate Occupational Therapy plan of care within acute care
2. Apply advanced occupational therapy interventions for an occupational therapy episode of care for a variety of conditions treated in the acute and critical care setting
3. Demonstrate the communication/collaboration skills with the members of the multidisciplinary team and the patient, needed to care for a person with disorders of body structure or function, activity limitations or participation restrictions
4. Provide health and wellness or injury prevention programs and/or educational presentations for persons in the community as it relates to movement, development, activities of daily living and other related Occupational Therapy topics

5. Participate in the development of new or innovative occupational Therapy techniques and the collection of evidence to support the effectiveness of those techniques to enhance the practice of Occupational Therapy in the acute care environment
6. Contribute to the Occupational Therapy profession through, teaching, research, publication and presentations

Curriculum:

Schedule for education curriculum

- 53 weeks/ fellowship year:
 - 5 weeks orientation
 - 2 weeks non education time at holidays
 - 46 weeks for education.

Note: 6 weeks of non-education time are still included in fellowship hours, these weeks are 100% patient care and this time is calculated in total fellowship hours.

Breakdown of teaching hours during the 46 education weeks:

Approximately: 14 hours education, 26 hours treating per week

- Clinical Practice: 40 hours per week during orientation and holidays, 26 hours per week during educational weeks = approx 1410 hours
- Coursework Didactic learning and Lab = 3 hours a week x 46 weeks (lectures and labs) = approx 138 hours
- Direct Patient Mentoring = 4-5 hours a week x 46 weeks (one on one with faculty) = minimum 150 (target 207 hours)
- Clinical Investigations = 2 hours a week x 46 weeks (functional measures, tracking of patient scores, research, journal clubs, peer reviews, grand rounds, case reviews) = approx 115 hours
- Specialty Practice Observation = 4 hours/week (multidisciplinary observations, rounds, surgery) = approx 184 hours

Total hours for program: 1992 scheduled

Outline of Acute Care Fellowship educational modules (4-6 weeks each module):

Principles of Rehabilitation and Clinical Reasoning

Evidenced Based Practice and Critical Appraisal of Clinical Research

Orthopedic conditions

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Cardiology

General Medicine

Burns, Plastic Surgery and ENT

Critical Care

Neuro/Neurosurgical conditions

Hematology/Oncology

Trauma

General Surgery

Ethics

Hours:

The majority of on-site fellowship activities occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 7AM and 6 PM. Fellows are considered exempt employees who are salaried. Their work schedule will be flexible and allow for patient care, training, mentoring, as well as study time and preparation. Schedules are coordinated by the fellowship program coordinator and shall not exceed expectation of more than 50 hours/week of direct program participation. There will be additional personal study time required.

Weekend Coverage: Occupational Therapy Fellows will be scheduled to work weekends on a rotating basis, approximately one weekend/4 weeks. This time will tracked as patient care hours and the fellow will receive one flex day for each weekend day worked.

Professional Liability Insurance:

As an employee of the UCMC, a fellow is covered by the organization's professional liability policy. This coverage extends only to those activities that are required by their participation in the program. All fellows are encouraged to carry their own personal professional liability coverage.

Salary/Benefits:

As a fellow in the program, the salary for the fellowship program is set according to the cost of maintaining the program. The fellow will receive full time health care benefits during the fellowship year. There is potential to defer student loans for the year of the fellowship program.

Continuing Education Allocation: The University of Chicago Medicine offers each fellow \$4000 in tuition/continuing education assistance. Other than the \$4000 continuing education benefit from the institution (available after probation) there are no additional monies allocated for outside continuing education, tuition reimbursement, travel or parking fess to any observations/ outside facilities, living expenses, licensure fees, or professional dues.

UChicago Medicine Occupational Therapy Fellowship

Paid Time Off (PTO) Guidelines

Occupational Therapy Fellows are full time employees of the University of Chicago Medical Center. They will be eligible to take 10 days of paid time off, with the approval of the fellowship program coordinator and the assistant director. 7 organizational holidays will also be paid; New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and Martin Luther King Day. Because of the extensive education and curriculum pieces of the fellowship positions it is very challenging to provide the fellows with extended time (more than 5 consecutive work days) off throughout their program.

Paid Time off:

- Paid days off will be scheduled with the approval of the fellow's manager and the Occupational Therapy Fellowship Program Coordinator. Unscheduled days off (such as sick, emergency, etc.) must also be approved by the fellowship program coordinator and will be deducted from the PTO bank.
- Any unpaid time (beyond the 10 days) will be granted only for an approved emergency leave by the Therapy Services Director.
- All paid time off must be taken within the time frame of the fellowship program commitment.
- Time off from the fellowship may be allowed if:
 - Staffing allows adequate patient care coverage
 - The fellow may need to work additional hours before and after a scheduled day off to assure that all educational pieces and patient care obligations are achieved.
 - Time is requested a minimum of 4 weeks ahead of scheduled day off

Sick Days:

- All employees are asked to not put patients and co-workers at risk by attending work if they are ill.
- If a fellow is sick, they need to email therapy.services@uchicagomedicine.org by 6:30 am of their scheduled day of work and share reason for absence. They must also contact the assistant director for their team to share the reason for their absence.
- If sick time taken exceeds amount of PTO days (10) or if a pattern is noticed, time off will be discussed with the fellow. A doctors' note may be required any time abuse of sick time is suspected

How to Apply:

Eligibility: Occupational Therapists licensed or eligible for licensure, in the state of Illinois, are encouraged to apply. **Only occupational therapists licensed in the state of Illinois will be hired.**

The application must include a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, 3 letters of recommendation, and an online UChicago Medicine application.

- The letter of intent must include the following:
 - Why applicant is interested in the program, why applicant is a good fit
 - Summary of prior clinical and educational experience and how it aligns with the fellowship program
 - Goals for an acute care specialty
- Please include current curriculum vitae or resume.
- The 3 letters of recommendation must include two of the following:
 - 1) Current or former supervisor, (if a recent graduate; from a current or former fieldwork educator)
 - 2) Instructor/faculty member from an accredited occupational therapy program
 - 3) A health care provider with whom the occupational therapist has worked in the past year.

Complete an OT fellow application online at:

<https://www.uchicagomedicine.org/about-us/careers>

Interviews:

Top candidates will be interviewed initially via phone, second interviews will be completed with fellowship staff either virtually or at the University of Chicago Medical campus in May of the application year. All interviews will include behavioral and clinical questions. Please be prepared to discuss research ideas and to demonstrate patient interactions and treatment plans.

The completed application should be forwarded electronically via email no later April 1st of the application year to:

Cheryl L. Esbrook, OTR/L, BCPR
UChicago Medicine
5841 South Maryland Avenue, MC 1081
Chicago, IL 60637
Voicemail 773-795-7134
Fax 773-702-5340
E-mail: cheryl.esbrook@uchicagomedicine.org

Website: [Therapy Services: Post-Graduate Education - UChicago Medicine](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. As a full time employee at the hospital, how is the fellow compensated? Is there a separate fellow rate during fellowship hours? Or is the fellow on a "normal" salary with additional years of commitment after the fellowship ends? Is there tuition involved or is it waived by being a full time employee? The fellowship position is a full time salaried position. The level of compensation is less than a full time treating therapist and the difference in pay is what it costs UCM to educate the fellow. There is no tuition required for the fellowship. There are not additional years of commitment from the fellow or the organization upon completion of the program. Health care benefits are provided during the year of training as well as educational benefit of \$4000

2. How many fellows are accepted annually?
2 fellows are accepted annually

3. Are the 3 hours of didactic coursework each week in a classroom format? If so, is that during the working week or on the weekend? This is generally presented during the work week, occasionally on a weekend if faculty schedule requires however, this occurs rarely.

4. Who are the faculty of this program and who are the mentors? Faculty and mentors are the same – most are employees of UCMC and for some sections we have additional faculty from outside clinics. Faculty involved in the program have extensive experience in acute care and specifically with the patient population involved in each module. During each section the faculty who is teaching is also mentoring the fellow for at least 4-5 hours/week

5. As far as the letters of recommendation, are they to be sent to you directly by the writers or should it come with the rest of my application in the same packet? All materials are preferred to come electronically via email. The writers of the letters of recommendation must send the letter from their email.

6. Do fellows work weekends? Yes, fellows work weekends which is usually one weekend every 4 weeks. Flex days are given for the weekend time and fellows are encouraged to take their flex time within the month.

7. Does the University of Chicago affiliate with an Occupational Therapy School and require teaching in the University setting? The University of Chicago does not have an OT program which it is affiliated with for teaching. We do have a medical school at the University of Chicago and the occupational therapy fellows are involved in teaching medical fellows from various services as well as nurses and other health professionals. We also take a large number of OT students throughout the year for clinical rotations.

8. Is the OT fellowship the same as the previous OT residency UCM offered? Yes, the content is the same however; AOTA has updated the terminology to fellowship.

For more information at AOTA: <https://www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Advance-Career/fellowship.aspx>