



*Transforming lives through occupation, service, and whole-person care*

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- ◆ Post-Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy (PPOTD)

### Post Professional Occupational Therapy Program

The post-professional program is designed for licensed occupational therapists who have a master's degree. It is a flexible online program designed for working professionals.

### Employment Trends

A post-professional OTD degree may open up new opportunities for occupational therapy practitioners in areas of teaching, leadership, advocacy, and research. There is currently a lack of doctoral level occupational therapy faculty across the nation. U.S. News and World Report states that occupational therapy remains a high-growth field.

### Department of Occupational Therapy

Within the Department of Occupational Therapy, faculty members play an active role in the education of students as evidenced by small class sizes with frequent one-on-one interaction.

The department also offers its students a rich learning environment for developing professional skills with an emphasis on Occupation-based practice, Health Lifestyle & Wellness, Evidence-based practice, Occupational Justice, and Leadership. At LLU, Capstone projects can be in a variety of areas though we emphasize Academia, Community Practice & Innovation, Hand Therapy, Lifestyle Medicine, Palliative Care, Spirituality, Technology, and Trauma. We believe that professional education is a journey of the mind, body, and spirit that involves growth and development in self-discovery, and clinical reasoning. The foundational, practice and professional learning helps provide professional competency

in a supportive environment and promote lifelong learning.

The PPOTD program is fully online where students use the University's Learning Management System, Canvas, to take all of their courses. The program incorporates best practices in DE, such as having substantial interaction between faculty and students and incorporating active learning opportunities. The University has a Canvas tutorial in the student's application registration portal with instructions on how to use the Learning Management System.

### Accreditation Status

The post-professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy program maintains its accreditation through Loma Linda University and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Post-professional programs are not accredited through the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

### Doctoral Degree

The post-professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy program is for individuals who have obtained a master's degree. The length of the program is 2 years and 3 months and includes a culminating capstone project incorporating elements of research and program development. There is an intense track for this program that allows students to complete all required coursework within 1 year and 3 months. This option requires students to participate in the program at a full-time status.

## Admissions

To be eligible for admission, the applicant must have earned a master's degree in occupational therapy or another related field with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Applicants in the United States must be certified by the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

Applicants from other countries must submit verification of licensure and certification in occupational therapy. The applicant's recommendations, phone interview, essay, and work experience are considered in the admissions screening process.

## State Regulations for Online Programs

Please refer to Loma Linda University's Information page for online distance education programs.

Please refer to Loma Linda University's [Information page for online distance education programs](#)

## Requirements:

- Master's degree in occupational therapy or a related field from an accredited institution and six months of professional practice
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 in graduate studies
- Preferred six months of professional experience
- Certified in occupational therapy in the United States or an occupational therapy degree from a World Federation of Occupational Therapy (WFOT) approved program outside of the United States. Please submit a copy with your application.
- Completed online application
- \$60 nonrefundable application fee
- Official transcripts for all college coursework
- Copy of current state license/certification in a US jurisdiction as a registered occupational therapist and NBCOT certification if US applicant
- Copy of current state/country licensure and education verification if a foreign applicant (Please refer to University policy on foreign applicants.)
- Official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score with a minimum of 550 (213 if computer generated). All international applicants or those who speak English as a second language should refer to the School of Allied Health international student admissions information for additional admission requirements.

- Resume/CV
- Three letters of reference
- Two- to three-page essay describing your personal interests, career goals, and how the OTD will help you achieve this. The essay should also describe your professional skills, professional accomplishments, and research interests/experience.
- Zoom interview (to be scheduled after application has been submitted)

## How to apply:

1. Applications are accepted from early January until the end of August. Applicants must apply on the Loma Linda University website at [https://llu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply?rsource=home.llu.edu/academics/how-apply&\\_ga=2.227997342.201026559.1681156346-1019647521.1681081519](https://llu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply?rsource=home.llu.edu/academics/how-apply&_ga=2.227997342.201026559.1681156346-1019647521.1681081519)
2. Three references must be provided.
3. Eligible candidates will be contacted for further instructions in moving to the next level of review.

## Cost of Attendance

Please review LLU's Find a Program website [page](#) for the most up-to-date information on the cost of attendance.

## Financial Aid

You may begin your financial aid process in October, the year prior to when you plan to attend, even before a formal acceptance to the program. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be found online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

LLU's Student Financial Aid office will help you obtain the necessary applications and guide you through the process of applying for aid. Contact them at:

Office of Financial Aid  
Loma Linda University  
Loma Linda, CA 92350  
(909) 558-4509

## Contact Information

### PPOTD Academic Advisor

Julie Kugel (909) 558-4628, ext. 47473  
E-mail: [jkugel@llu.edu](mailto:jkugel@llu.edu)

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LOMA LINDA  
UNIVERSITY

## LLU at a Glance

>> Founded in 1905 >> A Seventh-day Adventist institution integrating health, science, and Christian faith >> Offers over 200 programs in the health sciences >> Houses eight schools: Allied Health Professions, Behavioral Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Religion >> About 4,000 students >> Over 1,300 faculty >> 2,000 professional researchers >> \$46 million dollars in private and public grants generated each year >> Many service-learning opportunities

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