

FAQ for Application Process to MOT Program at LLU

1. What is the application period for the MOT program?

The application portal for the MOT program is open from mid-July until September 30. You must first apply to the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application System, www.OTCAS.org.

2. Where do I find the application for applying to the MOT program?

The application for OTCAS is found at www.OTCAS.org. You must apply to OTCAS first, and once your application is verified, then you will receive the supplemental LLU application.

3. I went to the LLU website to open an application for OT, but it says application not available. How do I apply to LLU?

If you have submitted an application to OTCAS first (see #2 above), LLU will send you an email with the link to the electronic supplemental application. There is no additional fee for the supplemental application.

4. Does the September 30 deadline mean that my application must be verified by that deadline?

Your OTCAS application must be submitted by September 30, it does not have to be verified by that date. However, OTCAS could take up to 4 weeks to verify your application so we highly recommend applying early to avoid possible delays in the verification process.

5. Does OTCAS verify my transcripts first before I submit and pay for my application?

No, OTCAS must receive your paid and submitted application **first**; no processing will be done until your application is official. You are responsible for checking your application status to ensure that all transcripts have been received by OTCAS so they may begin their verification process.

6. Can I transfer in OT-related credits to the program?

Applicants wishing to transfer prior OT-related credits towards our program must receive written approval by our program. Please submit a written request via email to studyot@llu.edu. Include the title of the course(s), number of units, syllabus, and the course you are wanting the program to consider for equivalency. A representative from the program will follow up in writing with a decision from the Admissions Committee.

7. I want to apply to LLU, but I do not see the option to choose LLU on the OTCAS application.

The application portal for LLU is open from mid-July to September 30. If you are applying after September 30, the option is no longer available to apply to LLU. If you are applying in July, make sure that OTCAS has opened the application portal for your desired academic year.

8. How many recommendations do you require?

A minimum of three recommendations are required. Please submit one or two academic recommenders, and you may also select employment supervisors, church officials, volunteer or community service supervisors, or occupational therapists. Once you have entered the names and email addresses of your recommenders, they will receive an email requesting them to fill out the recommendation evaluation form and then submit a letter of recommendation. It is

your responsibility to check in your application status to ensure that your recommenders have submitted their recommendation evaluations and letters.

9. I have a letter of recommendation from a recommender, can I mail it to OTCAS or to LLU?

Do not mail the recommendation letter to OTCAS, they will not accept paper recommendations; the letter must be scanned and uploaded to the OTCAS application.

10. Does LLU require a personal statement?

Yes, your personal statement may be uploaded on your OTCAS application, under Supporting Information. Suggested maximum length is 2 pages.

11. May I submit a resumé with my application?

Yes, you may upload your resumé on your OTCAS application, under Supporting Information, or Program Materials. The resumé is optional.

12. Do you require the GRE?

No, the GRE is not mandatory for admission to our MOT program at LLU.

13. What is the minimum GPA requirement?

We require a minimum cumulative and pre-requisite GPA of 3.20.

14. Where do I find OT observation hours?

You may inquire at any facility where there are occupational therapists, such as hospitals (in-patient and out-patient), rehabilitation centers, convalescent homes, school districts, private clinics, assisted living. When you inquire, ask if you are able to observe or shadow the OT, vs asking if you can volunteer. If the facility only takes volunteers, then you need to sign on as a volunteer, but request to be placed in the OT setting. Start observing as soon as you can, many facilities have a waitlist and you may have to wait for your turn. See #15 below for the link to find the observation verification forms.

15. Where do I find your observation hours forms, and where do I submit my completed forms?

- The observation verification forms may be found at this link:
<http://alliedhealth.llu.edu/sites/alliedhealth.llu.edu/files/docs/allied-mot-verification-forms.pdf>.
- If you observed at more than one facility, you must submit forms for each separate facility.
- All forms for each facility, the observation verification by the OT, your reaction to the observation experience, and your time log, must be submitted in order for the observations to be accepted. Please scan the forms as one pdf and upload to the OTCAS application, under Program Materials.
- If the OT prefers to return the observation verification form directly to us instead of giving it to you, it may be mailed to: Department of Occupational Therapy, Loma Linda University, Nichol Hall A901, Loma Linda, CA 92350.

16. What do you accept for fulfillment of observation hours?

- We will accept observing or shadowing of occupational therapy in a variety of settings, such as acute care, out-patient rehabilitation, school-based, private clinics, behavioral health, assisted living, etc.
- You must shadow an OT or OTA, not PT or other disciplines.
- If you are working as an aide, and directly assisting the OT, this is acceptable for fulfillment of our requirement. However, if your work involves clerical or other duties not in the vicinity of OT, then that is counted as work experience and not OT observation.

You must submit separate observation verifications and reactions to your experience of each facility that you observed at, in order for those hours to be counted.

17. If I have not finished my observation hours, do I need to wait until I have completed them before submitting my application?

- You do not have to wait until you have completed all your observation hours before submitting your OTCAS application. You may upload documents of the hours you have already completed, with a notation that you are completing the rest of the hours, and indicating when we may expect the rest of the documents.
- Please keep in mind that the OT observation requirement is part of our criteria for acceptance. If your application shows incomplete hours and there is no indication of when you will submit the remaining hours, review of your application will be held up.

18. I did my observation hours a year or two ago and the OT signed my time sheet, but I do not have any other verification or letter from them. Am I able to count those hours?

You will need to obtain additional updated observation hours at other OT settings and get verification from the OT. All observation hours must be verified with the occupational therapist's verification evaluation form, timesheet, and your reaction to the experience.

19. I used the time log sheet provided by the facility that I observed, can I use that in place of the time log you provided? What if I did more hours than there are log spaces on your time sheet?

Yes, you may substitute the time sheet provided by the facility. You may print out more time sheets if you need more space than the one sheet.

20. If the OT gave me a letter of recommendation instead of filling out the observation verification evaluation form, is that acceptable?

The letter from the OT verifying your experience may be used in lieu of the observation verification form, however it may not also be used as one of your recommendation letters.

21. Do I request transcripts to be sent to OTCAS as well as LLU?

Initially, only OTCAS needs your official transcripts from all your colleges attended. If you are accepted to LLU, then we will require you to request official transcripts to be sent to LLU. Note: International applicants are required to request transcripts to be sent to LLU at the time of application. See item# 29.

22. I am still completing my prerequisites, am I allowed to apply or must I wait until my prerequisites are done?

You may submit your application to OTCAS as long as you will be completed with your prerequisites by the end of the Fall term of the year that you are applying. For instance, if you are applying for our June 2020 start date, you must have all prerequisites completed by December of 2019. As soon as you have completed those courses, send us your grade report so that we may calculate those grades into your GPA before we make a final decision on your application.

23. Where do I find the supplemental (or secondary) LLU application? Does it need to be submitted together with the OTCAS application?

The supplemental LLU application is submitted separately from the OTCAS application. Your OTCAS application must be *verified* by OTCAS first, then they will release your name to LLU. When the LLU admissions office receives your name, they will send you an email with the link to the electronic LLU application, which must be completed and submitted before the deadline specified in the email. There is no additional fee for the LLU application.

24. What are the core values essay questions and where do I find those?

The core values questions are part of the LLU supplemental application, which you will receive once your OTCAS application has been verified.

25. What is the maximum length of the core values essay questions?

There are four core values essay questions in the LLU supplemental application. Your answer to each question should be kept within 600 words. Please be succinct rather than long and rambling. The electronic LLU application is on a timer and will shut off after a period of inactivity; always save each section that you complete. You should work on your essays off-line, and then paste them into the application.

26. When I submit my LLU supplemental application, do I need to request my recommenders to fill out the LLU recommendation form again?

No, your recommenders do not need to fill out LLU's recommendation form if they already did the one for OTCAS. Please leave that section of your application blank, otherwise your recommender will receive the request from LLU to fill out the LLU form. If you wish to add additional recommenders to the ones you submitted on OTCAS, then you may list the additional names on the LLU application.

27. When I submit my LLU supplemental application, do I need to request transcripts to be sent to LLU?

No, we do not need your transcripts because we have access to them on OTCAS. If you are offered acceptance to LLU, then we will require official transcripts at that time.

International students will be required to request their international transcripts and transcript evaluations to be sent to LLU at the time of submitting the supplemental application.

28. After submitting my application (both OTCAS and LLU), what happens next, and when will I hear if I am accepted?

Once we have both your OTCAS and LLU applications, they will be reviewed and scored. If your application is recommended for the next stage, you will be sent an email inviting you to an online interview via Zoom. This process will go on from October to December. Final decisions will be made in January and notifications will be sent out immediately after that.

International Applicants

29. I am an international applicant, what is required for my application to be processed?

Please read the information pertaining to international students at this link:

<https://home.llu.edu/education/how-apply/international-students-scholars/international-academic-transcripts>.

The following are required for international students:

- a. Final official transcripts with Bachelors degree posted, and no in-progress courses.
- b. Transcript evaluation of any international transcripts (see more details below).
- c. TOEFL scores (valid within 2 years). LLU institution code is 4062.

The above documents must be submitted to:

Admissions Processing
Loma Linda University
11139 Anderson Street
Loma Linda, CA 92350

International students must complete all coursework (whether prerequisites or degree requirements) no later than December of the application year. The final official transcript of an international applicant must be complete with all grades or degrees posted, and no outstanding or in-progress courses. The Bachelors degree from an international institution must be verified as equivalent to a Bachelors degree in the U.S. before we can continue to process your application.

Acceptance and I-20 cannot be offered to an international student until the final official transcript is received. Our program begins in June, and if you are still completing courses in the spring of the year you wish to begin, you may not be eligible to begin that year and might have to wait to apply for the following year. Please contact the International Student Office for more information or questions regarding immigration status, (909) 558-4560.

Do not send transcripts to LLU yourself, all transcripts must be sent directly from your colleges to LLU. International transcripts must be officially evaluated by a transcript evaluation service. The preferred service is World Education Services (WES): <http://www.wes.org/>, because LLU will accept the transcripts that are included in the WES report as fulfilling the official transcript requirement.

These are the transcript evaluation services that LLU will accept:

1. [World Education Services International Credential Advantage Package \(WES ICAP – Course-by-course\)](#) *

2. [Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc \(ECE\)](#)
3. [American Education Research Corporation \(AERC\)](#)
4. [American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers \(AACRAO\)](#) **

* If ordering an evaluation from WES, you must order a WES ICAP course-by-course evaluation. Select Loma Linda University from the drop-down list of recipient institutions, you do not need to write in the address. Academic transcript copies included in official WES reports are considered by LLU as official transcripts/mark sheets and will fulfill the requirement for those official transcripts.

** AACRAO no longer evaluates new transcripts as of September, 2016. If you had an AACRAO evaluation done prior to this date we will continue to accept it as long as AACRAO continues to maintain the record and is able to send it.

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