

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523

**MOT and MS DEGREE OPTIONS**  
***Professional Master of Science (MS)***  
***Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT)***  
***For Students with an Undergraduate Degree in a Discipline other than OT***

We offer Master of Science (MS) and Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) degrees. Both degrees are offered only as full-time programs.

All applicants apply to the MOT program. In the first semester of the program, students learn about research opportunities to complete the MS option. If interested in this option, students apply and if accepted to complete a thesis project, the paperwork is completed through the Graduate School to officially switch from MOT to MS.

While both degree options are practice-oriented and prepare students to apply research evidence to support best practice, they have different capstone requirements for graduation as described below.

- **MS Degree:** To meet the Graduate School's capstone requirements for graduation, MS students complete an independent research thesis through a carefully mentored research process (Graduate School Plan A). The MS degree is thus recommended for students who want to become directly involved in research while earning their degrees and who may imagine completing a PhD in the future and future roles as researchers and educators. Interested applicants are encouraged to learn about the programs of research conducted by faculty in the department in order to match their research interests with those of possible mentors. Applicants also are welcome to contact individual faculty members to explore mentoring and thesis possibilities prior to their admission into the program ([www.ot.chhs.colostate.edu/faculty-staff](http://www.ot.chhs.colostate.edu/faculty-staff)).
- **MOT Degree:** To meet the Graduate School's capstone requirements for graduation, MOT students complete a capstone project in their final semester of study (Graduate School Plan C). This capstone project is designed to help students integrate learning across all of their courses and fieldwork experiences and to advance their expertise related to a specialty focus area. The MOT degree is thus recommended for students who, while committed to evidence-based practice, do not envision conducting research as a central activity either while studying to become occupational therapists or in their future careers.

**Specialization:** As required by national accreditation standards, the Occupational Therapy program prepares students as generalists. While the program does not offer certifications in specialty areas of practice, students may begin to develop a specialty focus through their choice of an elective and completion of their capstone requirements (MOT degree) or thesis research (MS degree).