

ORPAS

Hello and welcome to the Centre for Career Action's tip series on the Ontario Rehabilitation Sciences Programs. My name is Pam Waechter and my colleague Katie Denomme and I are career advisors in the Centre for Career Action that work with undergraduate and graduate students, and alumni, for the planning, application and interview processes for graduate or professional school. In this series we will work through the application processes and requirements for pursuing Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology and Audiology programs in Ontario. The application we are using is updated as of **August 2016**, so please be sure to check the ORPAS website and individual school sites for the most up-to-date information. In addition, we have created sample application answers used in these videos. These samples are for your learning only and are not to be plagiarized, copied or used in any form, in your personal application.

To book hour long appointments that can help you plan for a program you want to attend, have your application reviewed, and practice for a professional school interview, please go to the Centre for Career Action website. After completion of the pre-work through CareerHub you will be able to book an appointment. Please read the content we have created for you as we have gathered this information by conducting research, talking to admission directors, attending events, and through many years of advising students.

There are many resources available to you through the Centre for Career Action to help you with planning and applying to professional/grad programs. From the Centre for Career Action home page, click on Resources/Library and then click on the link called: Career planning, job search, and further education. Additionally we have created a list of current, relevant websites for different application processes. This information is stored in CareerHub.

Check the Centre for Career Action website under Appointments / Workshops to find upcoming relevant workshops.

Further Education drop-ins are held Monday through Friday from 12-1, for 15 minute timeslots. These drop-ins are for follow-up, or quick questions regarding planning and prep for professional/grad school applications and interviews. If interested in a drop-in go to the Centre for Career Action front counter, TC 1214, and register for one of the timeslots. You can do this as early as 11:30 a.m. the day of your drop-in. Drop-ins are also available by phone or Skype. If you are interested in this option, please call 519 888 4047. At this time, drop-ins are only available for current students.

In the Centre for Career Action library in the Tatham Centre, there are books that may help you get started on your personal statements or letters of intent. Also, at the front counter of the Centre for Career Action, Tatham Centre, room 1214, we have a Letter of Intent binder for professional programs and a Letter of Intent binder for graduate programs. You can read what previous Waterloo students have submitted for their applications. We have permission from the applicants and have removed any identifying information. These sample applications can only be viewed in the CCA library.

If you need help to get started learning about yourself so that you can make career and grad school planning decisions attend a Career Exploration and Decision Making appointment or workshop to explore your career interests and options.

ORPAS is the centralized application for all Ontario programs in Occupational therapy (OT), Physiotherapy (PT), Speech-language pathology (SLP) and Audiology. You can submit one application per profession, and then ORPAS distributes it to the schools that you are applying to. However, some of the individual programs will have additional personal submissions. OUAC.on.ca/ORPAS is where you want to start with your planning. Make sure to read the ORPAS Instruction Booklet in detail to find the most up-to-date instructions and requirements for each program, at each Ontario school.

The deadline for all applications, and all schools, usually falls on the first Friday in January, each year. Offers for SLP and Audiology programs are out in April, and offers for OT and PT are usually out in May. If you receive an offer, you will need to submit a final transcript using the Transcript Request Form in your ORPAS online application by the end of June. Receipt of the TRF by June 30, does not satisfy the deadline requirement for final transcripts. Allow sufficient time for ORPAS to receive your transcripts by the deadline!

You can enter and exit the application package until you “submit”, so, if you are not applying this year, create an account so you can see what it looks like. The Help screens give very detailed information on how to fill out each page of the application. Also, in the Centre for Career Action, in the resource library located in the Tatham Centre, there is a binder that has a copy of the most recent application available, including the ORPAS instruction booklet and GPA conversion chart.

In this series, we will review the ORPAS application and the different sections. We will provide advice on how to make each of these sections effective. This series will explore what you need to know about the application, references, GPA requirements, prerequisites, personal submissions, resumes, and activity submissions.

In Ontario, you can apply to McMaster University for OT and PT, Queen’s University for OT and PT, University of Toronto for OT, PT, and SLP, and Western University for OT, PT, SLP and Audiology.

The PT and OT programs are Master's level programs, and typically 2-years in length. They are clinical master’s programs that will teach what evidence to use to guide practice; the Ontario programs are full time. All Ontario programs have their own strengths. Review what research is being conducted at each institution, and note the placements are different for each school, and clinical training can be independent or as part of a group. Anything an OT or PT does is evidence-based, so research is required to guide practice; the clinical master’s will teach you what evidence to use to guide practice. Clinical training can also be completed independently or as part of a group.

The Master’s programs in Audiology and SLP programs are also 2 years in length.

The Master of Health Science program at Toronto prepares you for professional practice in speech-language pathology. Academic and clinical experiences are integrated to provide you with the skills required for assessing and treating a wide variety of individuals with communication and swallowing disorders. The MHSc program can only be completed on a full-time basis.

The Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) are full-time, research-oriented programs that prepare you for advanced scientific work in the discipline. These two research programs do not prepare students for a clinical career. This application is for the Master of Health Science Program (clinical). If you are interested in applying to the

Master of Science or Doctor of Philosophy degree programs, contact the department directly.

In the Master of Health Science Program, there is no thesis requirement, but you are required to complete a portfolio at the end of your second year. The innovative curriculum links academic course work to relevant clinical internships so theoretical learning is immediately consolidated by practical experience. You also complete a clinical internship during which you are expected to participate independently in assessing and treating clients with a variety of communication disorders. You must be prepared to accept clinical placements as assigned, based on availability, need, and, whenever possible, your preferences. Be prepared to: take clinical placements anywhere within Ontario (or elsewhere) at a placement site designated for you; arrange your own travel and accommodation; and cover related expenses. You may expect that at least one internship will take place outside of the Greater Toronto Area.

Western's School of Communication Sciences and Disorders (SCSD) educates graduate students in the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology and prepares students to work with people who have hearing, speech, language, voice, swallowing and cognitive communication impairments. The program contains academic, clinical and research facilities for specialized instruction in audiology and speech-language pathology, including in-house laboratories and audiovisual/computer-based learning facilities.

For all four program types, placements vary for each school.

At Queen's, the majority of the placements are in Kingston, east to Cornwall, west to Aurora/Newmarket and north to Peterborough, Smith Falls, Lindsay, Pembroke and Perth. Placements may also be available elsewhere in Ontario, across Canada and internationally, but are limited and more competitive. There is currently an "Information Video for Applicants" available on the School of Rehabilitation Therapy, MSc PT website under Admission Requirements.

Toronto is the biggest rehabilitation school in Canada. There is a tougher job market upon graduation if you decide to stay in the area, and a lot of second year students go on unfunded international placements.

At Western, placements extend from Sarnia to Windsor, Owen Sound in the north, Kitchener-Waterloo in the east, and include both small and large centres. There are limited opportunities in other parts of Ontario & Canada as well, and international placements are also available in 2nd year.

At McMaster, for the 28 weeks of practical experience, the catchment area is shared with other Ontario rehab programs in St. Mary's, Guelph, Burlington, Brantford, Orangeville, Shelburne, and Barrie. There is also a Northern Studies Stream in Thunder Bay, North Bay, Sudbury & Timmins, where the transportation and housing is funded.

These locations change from year to year so it is important to update yourself with the current demographics for placements of each school.