

Early Assurance Pathway (EAP) Admissions Policy and Procedure

I. Policy Statement

St. Bonaventure University's (SBU) Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) program offers an Early Assurance Pathway (EAP) for undergraduate students to reserve a seat in the occupational therapy graduate program. The MSOT program reserves twenty (20) seats per cohort for eligible SBU undergraduate students. This policy ensures a streamlined transition for qualified students while maintaining academic and professional standards.

II. Eligibility Requirements

SBU undergraduate students may apply to reserve a seat in the MSOT program during their undergraduate career, provided they meet the following criteria:

- Must be enrolled full-time as an undergraduate student at St. Bonaventure University
- Must demonstrate an approved plan of study to fulfill BS/BA degree requirements
- Successfully complete a faculty interview process upon EAP election for seat reservation
- Be in good academic and disciplinary standing at St. Bonaventure University
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.2 throughout their undergraduate coursework (students with an overall GPA of 3.0-3.19 may be considered following a comprehensive review)
- Complete all required prerequisite courses* with a grade of “C” (2.0) or better

III. Application and Selection Process

1. **Application Submission:** Eligible students must elect “Occupational Therapy EAP” upon SBU undergraduate application or complete the EAP registration form found at: <https://www.sbu.edu/academics/occupational-therapy/occupational-therapy-early-assurance-pathways> EAP applications are accepted on a rolling basis for each cohort. Students must indicate their intended matriculation year and track of progression (3+2 or 4+2) after consulting with their undergraduate academic advisor. See Appendix A for additional information on 3+2 and 4+2 tracks.
2. **Interview Process:** Students are required to participate in an on-campus interview to assess their commitment to the profession, academic readiness, and professional demeanor. Interviews will be scheduled within one (1) month of receiving intent to register for the EAP program.
3. **Seat Allocation:** A maximum of twenty (20) seats will be reserved in each MSOT cohort (Fall start) for qualifying students based on a holistic review of their academic performance, interview results, and recommendation from their undergraduate academic advisor.
4. **Letter of Commitment:** Students selected for EAP will receive a letter of commitment for their reserved seat, contingent upon continued academic performance and completion of all prerequisites. The Letter of Commitment outlines academic and professional standards expected of incoming students, the academic year of matriculation, and 3+2 or 4+2 track of progression. Students must return a signed copy of the letter to the MSOT

EAP Coordinator, Ashlee Puglio, at apuglio@sbu.edu in order to verify their seat reservation.

5. **Waitlist:** After the interview process, if a student is placed on a waitlist for one of the available 20 seats, they will be notified in writing by the EAP coordinator. If a seat becomes available, students will be notified in accordance with their waitlisted standing. If an SBU undergraduate student remains waitlisted, they will be guaranteed an interview in December prior to anticipated matriculation as a traditional applicant and would follow the traditional application processes outlined below.

IV. Retention and Progression Requirements

To maintain their reserved seat, students must:

- Continue to meet the overall GPA requirement of 3.2
- Successfully complete all prerequisite courses* with a grade of “C” or better
- Adhere to all academic and professional conduct standards set forth by St. Bonaventure University and the MSOT program
- Participate in any required preparatory activities or meetings as determined by the MSOT EAP Coordinator
- If a student wishes to modify their intended track of progression (3+2 or 4+2), thereby adjusting their year of matriculation, they must indicate their intent in writing to the MSOT EAP Coordinator, Ashlee Puglio, at apuglio@sbu.edu. Depending on seat availability, students may be issued a new Letter of Commitment indicating the modified track of progression and matriculation year. If no seats are available, the student may need to revoke their EAP seat and apply as a traditional candidate. Application as a traditional candidate includes:
 - On-campus interview
 - 3 letters of recommendation
 - Personal essay
 - Confirmation deposit

V. Revocation of Reserved Seat

A student’s reserved seat may be revoked if they:

- Fail to meet the minimum academic requirements
- Violate institutional or program-specific academic integrity or professional conduct policies
- Opt to withdraw from the reserved seat pathway voluntarily. If a student wishes to withdraw from the EAP program, they must submit a request in writing to both their academic advisor and the MSOT EAP Program Coordinator, Ashlee Puglio, at apuglio@sbu.edu.

VI. Appeals Process

Students who lose their EAP seat status due to academic or conduct-related issues may submit an appeal to the MSOT Program Coordinator within two (2) weeks of notification. Appeals will be reviewed by the EAP Coordinator, MSOT Program Chair, and/or MSOT Program Director on a case-by-case basis, and decisions will be final.

* Prerequisite courses include Anatomy & Physiology I with lab (4 credit hours); Anatomy & Physiology II with lab (4 credit hours); Kinesiology or Biomechanics or General Physics (3 credit hours); General Psychology (3 credit hours); Abnormal/Maladaptive Psychology (3 credit hours); Developmental or Lifespan Psychology (3 credit hours); Sociology or Anthropology (3 credit hours); The prerequisite course work is listed at: <https://www.sbu.edu/academics/occupational-therapy/admission-criteria>

Appendix A

MSOT Program Progression Tracks

Accelerated 3+2 Progression Track

Students who elect to pursue the accelerated 3+2 B.S./MSOT track have the opportunity to complete undergraduate and graduate degree requirements in five (5) years. It is the expectation that the student will:

- A). Enter undergraduate studies with existing college credits to successfully complete their bachelor's degree (120 credits) in three (3) years
- B). Work diligently (often including winter and summer sessions) to earn the required 120 credit hours for successful completion of the B.S. or B.A. degree if entering without existing college credits

Students must work closely with their undergraduate academic advisor to ensure that all undergraduate degree requirements are met, as well as MSOT pre-requisite courses. Students are required to achieve a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.2 to enter the graduate MSOT program. Suggested plan(s) of study have been developed for undergraduate students pursuing the 3+2 progression track in Public Health and Health Science majors. To view suggested plans of study for these majors, visit: <https://www.sbu.edu/academics/occupational-therapy/occupational-therapy-early-assurance-pathways>

Accelerated 4+2 Progression Track

Students who elect to pursue the 4+2 B.S./MSOT option have the opportunity to select from a wider array of undergraduate majors, such as biology, psychology, chemistry, public health, health science, education, or other related fields. Students in this progression track will follow their traditional 4-year undergraduate pathway to successfully complete 120 undergraduate credits before matriculating into the MSOT program. Students will follow the plan of study outlined by their undergraduate department. Students are required to achieve a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.2 to enter the graduate MSOT program.