



## Occupational Therapist Programs at SMU

Samuel Merritt University has two degree programs leading to the Occupational Therapist (OTR/L) licensure: the Entry-Level Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program and the Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational (OTD) program. SMU's programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Samuel Merritt University's MOT and OTD program graduates are eligible to sit for the [National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy \(NBCOT\)](#) certification exam in all US states, territories, and commonwealths, *with the exceptions noted below*. However, OTR/L licenses are granted by the licensing authority in individual states and certain licensing boards may require a curriculum comparison or have other licensing requirements specific to that state. Prior to enrollment, prospective students must review the information below.

The [California Board of Occupational Therapy](#) is the licensing authority for Occupational Therapists in California and requires an exam on the laws and regulations for practice of occupational therapy in California. Samuel Merritt University will assist applicants and students as they determine licensure requirements in other states. Please contact the Dr. Yvette Mere-Cook ([ymerecook@samuelmerritt.edu](mailto:ymerecook@samuelmerritt.edu)), Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy, for more information. Contact information for Occupational Therapy state licensing boards outside of California can be found on the following page on the [NBCOT website](#).

States/Territories/Commonwealths for which SMU's Occupational Therapy programs MEET the educational requirements for licensure or certification:

- All US states, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS LISTED BELOW.

States/Territories/Commonwealths for which SMU's Occupational Therapy programs DO NOT MEET the educational requirements for licensure or certification:

- Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands