

**Comprehensive Program Review Report**  
**Academic Program Name: MSOT**  
**School: Health and Natural Sciences**  
**Department: Rehabilitation Science and Fitness**  
**CPR Review Schedule AY24-25**

**Provosts Response:**

The Office of the Provost concurs with the findings presented in the Comprehensive Program Review of the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) Bridge program. Since its launch in 2022, the program has demonstrated impressive quality and strong early outcomes, maintaining national appeal and receiving over 100 applicants across its first three years. The 91.6% graduation rate for the inaugural cohort reflects a solid foundation for long-term program viability and effectiveness.

We applaud the successful launch of this new health sciences program and its alignment with institutional goals in teaching, scholarship, and service. As the program matures and cohort outcomes are more fully documented, continued attention to maintaining its strong pedagogical and clinical foundation will be essential. We encourage ongoing refinement of marketing, advising, and employer engagement strategies to sustain applicant interest and meet evolving workforce needs in occupational therapy.

**Categorical Summation**

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

☐ Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

☒ **Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.**

☐ Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

☐ Program PARTIALLY MEETS Institution's Criteria and will be re-evaluated in

☐ Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

☐ Program will be placed on a 1 year monitoring status.

☐ Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.

☐ Program will be deactivated.

☐ Program will be voluntarily terminated.

☐ Other (identify/add text):

Provost or VPAA Signature:

Date:

 9/18/25



## Comprehensive Program Review

AY 2024 – 2025

**Institution:** Middle Georgia State University

**Academic Program:** Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Bridge Program

**College or School:** School of Health and Natural Sciences

**Department:** Rehabilitation Science & Fitness

**CIP Code:** 51.2306

**Date of Last Internal Review:** 2024

**Faculty Completing Report:** Betsy McDaniel

**Current Date:** March 2025

**5 Year Enrollment by Campus and Graduation Trends:** 12, Cochran Campus, FY 2025

### Enrollment

Campus	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	5 YR Growth	Fall 2020 compared to Fall 2024 only
Macon							
Cochran							
Warner Robins							
Dublin							
Eastman							
Online							
Off Campus							
Hybrid/Cochran	NA	NA	12	16	20	ACOTE Capped our first cohort at 12 and we have been allowed to increase by 4 each fall until we reach 24	NA

<b>Total</b>							
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\*MGA Dashboards

## Graduates

- For data consistency, the fiscal year is in which the degree was awarded. For examples, fiscal year 2020 includes degrees conferred in Summer 2019, Fall 2019, and Spring 2020.  
(data available in Deans and Chairs Dashboard)

<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>AY2020 compared to AY2024 only</b>
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	According to the info above, the first cohort will graduate in AY25. 12 students completed the Program in Summer/Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 and received their degrees accordingly	NA

\*Data retrieved from MGA Dashboards

## Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Bridge Program at Middle Georgia State University

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) Bridge Program at Middle Georgia State (MGA) University is designed to allow Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants to further their education by building upon their existing knowledge and experience. While completing the MSOT degree, students develop skills in occupational therapy theory, evaluation, evidence-based intervention, and program development with both individuals, groups, and populations, as well as have the opportunity to develop and/or enhance skills in management and leadership. A bachelor's degree is not required for admission.

The MSOT Program admitted the first cohort of students in Fall 2022 and graduated the first cohort in Fall 2024. Two students were unable to complete the program in Fall 2024 due to medical conditions but are on track to graduate in Spring 2025. There are no tracks or concentrations in this program. This is the first Comprehensive Program Review of the MSOT Program.

The program is offered in a partially online/hybrid format, with much of the coursework completed online using various technologies, along with supplemental on campus labs and experiential activities approximately once per month (3-4 times per semester in Fall/Spring and 1-2 times in the Summer). The MSOT program is located on the Cochran campus.

### **MSOT Bridge Program Mission Statement**

The Middle Georgia State University (MGA) Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) Program is supportive of the mission of MGA, as well as the University System of Georgia (USG), by educating lifelong learners whose scholarship and careers will enhance the region, as well as providing accessible and affordable, high quality education in the field of occupational therapy. The MSOT Program seeks to enable individuals to create healthy and productive lives through occupational and community engagement, by producing graduates who are competent, compassionate, ethical, and reflective practitioners, and who become leaders in the field.

### **MSOT Bridge Program Mission Fit at MGA**

The MSOT degree contributes to Middle Georgia State University's mission to educate and graduate inspired, lifelong learners whose scholarship and careers will enhance the region and the state. The MSOT Bridge Program is also consistent with the university's strategic plan. Specifically, the MSOT Program helps the university achieve Strategy #1 to "champion student success", and specifically to demonstrate academic excellence through achieving and maintaining ACOTE accreditation as well as increasing graduate enrollment. Strategy #2 states that the university will "lead innovation and economic opportunity" to meet the needs of the Middle Georgia region. The MSOT Program supports this strategy by expanding career options for alumni of the OTA Program by affording them the opportunity to return to MGA for a graduate degree that does not require a bachelor's degree but does allow them to further their careers and achieve their professional goals.

The unique hybrid design of the MSOT Bridge Program also aligns with the mission of MGA's Office of Graduate Studies "to develop and offer graduate degrees suitable for working adults to address the needs of the region and anticipate a growing knowledge economy" by allowing more students to achieve a graduate degree in OT without leaving their current positions as occupational therapy assistants to pursue a full-time, traditional master's degree. It also allows them to immediately put their acquired knowledge, research skills, and leadership abilities to use in the healthcare organizations where they are currently employed. The University's location in Middle Georgia provides a deep potential applicant pool of individuals that are already invested in the region and the field of occupational therapy.

### **Fit within the University System of Georgia**

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Bridge Program at Middle Georgia State University aligns closely with the University System of Georgia's (USG) 2029 Strategic Plan by advancing access, affordability, and academic excellence in graduate education. Specifically designed for Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants, the program expands educational pathways by removing the traditional bachelor's degree requirement, offering a flexible hybrid format ideal for working adults. In doing so, it supports USG's goals to promote student success, meet workforce needs, and stimulate economic development across Georgia. By preparing competent, compassionate, and innovative occupational therapy practitioners who are already embedded in the region's healthcare systems, the MSOT Bridge Program strengthens the local workforce and enhances the health and well-being of Georgia's communities.

## **Accreditation**

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Bridge Program at Middle Georgia State University is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E, Bethesda, MD 20814. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its web address is [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org). For more information, please visit the [ACOTE website](#). The Program received initial accreditation in April 2024 and was awarded a 7-year accreditation period which is the longest possible accreditation period for new programs.

## **Market Trends and Placement Outlook Impacting the MSOT Program**

Shifting trends and market forces strongly favor increased demand for the MSOT Bridge Program at Middle Georgia State University. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects an 11% growth in employment for occupational therapists from 2023 to 2033—well above the national average—driven by an aging population, rising prevalence of chronic conditions, and growing emphasis on non-opioid rehabilitation strategies. Additionally, the expanding need for specialized services for individuals with disabilities further underscores the profession's relevance. With approximately 9,800 job openings projected annually and a median annual salary of \$96,370, occupational therapy remains a financially and professionally attractive career path. These factors collectively enhance the appeal of flexible, accessible pathways like the MSOT Bridge Program, which allows certified occupational therapy assistants to advance their credentials while continuing to meet the healthcare needs of their communities.

**Using IPEDS data, list the supply of graduates in the program and related programs in the service area:**

<b>Similar or Related Degrees/Programs</b>	<b>CIP Code</b>	<b>Supply* (Graduates/Completers)</b>	<b>Competitor Institutions**</b>

*\*Supply = Number of program graduates last year within the study area*

*\*\*Competitors = List other USG institutions that offer this program of a similar program in the area*

There are no competitive programs within the USG because this is a bridge program, requiring an associate degree and license as an occupational therapy assistant for admission but not a bachelor's degree. There is no other similar program in the USG.

## **Labor Market/Career Placement Outlook/Salary:**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>O*Net<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Current Employment</b>	<b>% Growth</b>	<b>Average Salary (O-Net data)</b>	<b>Future Earnings Potential (O-Net data)</b>
Occupational Therapist	(Outlook)	150,500	9% or higher	\$96,370	Excellent

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<sup>1</sup>National Center for O\*NET Development. *O\*NET OnLine*. Retrieved [4/7/25] from <https://www.onetonline.org/>

## IEB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

**Date Reviewed: 4/25/25**

**Program Reviewed: MS in Occupational Therapy Bridge Program**

**Contextual Notes:** Summarize any demographic or environmental factors described in the introduction that might significantly impact assessment of the program

New program that started in Fall 2022; first cohort graduated in 2024. This is the first comprehensive program review.

Area of Focus	Exemplary Area	Satisfactory Area	Area of Concern	No Evidence	Notes
Enrollment	<i>This <b>program</b> has significantly positive enrollment trends and robust credit hour production</i>	<i>This <b>program</b> has stable or moderately positive enrollment trends and healthy credit hour production</i>	<i>This <b>program</b> has negative enrollment trends and weak credit hour production</i>		
<b>Graduation Trends</b> USG benchmark:  <b>Bachelor's Degrees:</b> 10 graduates/year  <b>Graduate, Associate's or Certificates:</b> 5 graduates/year	<i>Three year rolling average greatly exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred</i>	<i>Three year rolling average meets or exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred</i>			

## IEB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Programs falling under these benchmarks are designated as "low performing"					
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### Program Strengths of Note:

Evidence of strong growth in enrollment.

### Areas of Concern:

Give more details in telling the story of the program; more context. Give more details about completion rates of the cohorts—graduation number appears to include students from both 2022 and 2023; provide clarification. Consider looking at neighboring states for competitor programs and institutions--IPEDS should have this data. More context for the Labor Market chart would be helpful.

### Other Comments:



## **IEB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation**

## Comprehensive Program Review Report

**Academic Program Name:** Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Bridge Program

**College or School:** School of Health & Natural Sciences

**Department:** Rehabilitation Science & Fitness

**Date of Last Internal Review:** 3/1/2025

**Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement, if applicable):** N/A

**Current Date:** 6/2/2025

**Executive Summary:** *Provide a summary related to the academic program's **quality, viability, and productivity of efforts** in **teaching and learning, scholarship, and service** as appropriate to the institution's mission. If this is the initial review of the program address how the program is/is not meeting the enrollment and credit hour projects contained in the original program proposal.*

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Bridge program has proven to be a very viable program with an impressive quality that has grown in popularity across the nation. On average, this program has had over 100 applicants since its inception. At the current time, the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), mandates the small size of the cohort each year as a relatively new program. The curriculum of this degree program addresses all areas of teaching and learning, scholarship, and service. The program prepares students, as occupational therapists, to conduct their healthcare services based upon evidence-based practices and research within their field.

Although the Area of Concern in the IEB CPR Evaluation rubric report indicates that more details are needed concerning completion rates, the MSOT CPR submitted by the Administrator states that the inaugural first 12 students of the this program's cohort all completed the program in the Summer/Fall of 2024 or Spring of 2025 and received their degree accordingly. There were no graduates in 2022 or 2023 since the program started in 2022. This is a 74-credit hour program consisting of 7 sequential semesters. See details below:

MSOT Program Outcomes Data

### \*Graduates and Graduation Rates

Graduation Year	# of Students Admitted	# of Students Graduated	Graduation Rate
2024	12	*11	91.6%
2025	15		
2026	20		
Total for 3 Years			

According to the IPEDS data, it is difficult to search the academic field of occupational therapy in their information. The category of “rehabilitation and therapeutic professions” is the main category and includes several professions. It is important to note that these programs may not have the same Associate of Science in OT to MSOT bridge curricula as uniquely designed by MGA’s program.

Schools with Master’s level Occupational Therapy programs in the Southeastern part of the United States are listed below.

School	School Type	Location	# of Graduates
Abilene Christian University	Private	Abilene, TX	45
AdventHealth University	Private	Orlando, FL	25
Alabama State University	Public	Montgomery, AL	44
Appalachian State University	Public	Boone, NC	3
Augusta University	Public	Augusta, GA	40
Barry University	Private	Miami, FL	34

### Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program. *Include a statement of plans for action based on the overall categorical summation contained in this section.*

XX Program MEETS Institution’s Criteria (also indicate 1 subcategory below)

XX Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.

☐ Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

Required statement of plans for action: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Program DOES NOT MEET Institution’s Criteria (also indicate 1 subcategory below)

☐ Program will be placed on a monitoring status.

☐ Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.

- ☐ Program will be deactivated.
- ☐ Program will be voluntarily terminated.
- ☐ Other (identify/add text):

Required statement of plans for action: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Dean Signature:   
Dean of Graduate Studies Signature (when applicable):



Date: 6/2/2025