Hello! Welcome to the Occupational Therapy Program at Tennessee State University! Everyone in the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) would like to congratulate you on your acceptance and let you know that we’re so excited for you to become a part of our program. Below we have listed a few things we found important to share with you:

- We have established a mentor program. All of you should have been or should soon be contacted by your mentor. Please use your mentor as a contact for advice, any questions you may have, and a new friend. Our class is very excited for you to join us. We were in your shoes a year ago and are happy to help make this experience go as best it possibly can. But know that we are ALL here for you, not just your mentor.
- ALSO use each other! The next two years you will all be in the same classes but you each bring unique qualities and experiences to the table. Study together, work together, and learn from each other.
- A little bit advice to prepare you for our program: Be flexible and prepared for self-learning. Grad school is much different than undergrad. It requires you to take responsibility for your own learning. Our program is the resource but you will have to do the work.
- You will be REQUIRED to join various OT Associations, Expect these costs in the beginning of each semester as a member of the OT program here at TSU:
  o American Occupational Therapy Association, AOTA membership= $75
  o Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association, TNOTA membership= $20
  o Student Occupational Therapy Association, SOTA membership= $40
    • AOTA is THE organization for occupational therapists in the US. You’ll be learning all about the beginnings of our profession and the founding of this organization in class, but the crux of it is that we are where we are today because of AOTA. They are what drives us, defines us, and advocates for us. Being a part of this organization helps assure your future as an occupational therapist, but if that’s not enough, by becoming a member you’ll have access to the American Journal of Occupational Therapy (AJOT), job postings, continuing education classes, legislative advocacy, forums, and all sorts of other way to get involved
    • TNOTA is the state Occupational Therapy Association headquartered in Nashville. Membership includes access to state conferences, web seminars and networking opportunities with practicing Occupational Therapists in Nashville.
    • SOTA is the student organization run by occupational therapy graduate students here at TSU. We provide opportunities to volunteer in the community and hold social events for student interactions throughout the year. We really depend on your involvement.
Superficially, you can put it on your resume to show future employers that you were involved in and cared about your future profession. But the bigger reason to join is for yourself. Even if
you’re not going to be practicing in Tennessee, you’re here for the next two years, and you can benefit from these associations. They contribute to your development as an OT.

- SOTA & % 2017 have created TWO google docs that will be helpful for your transition to Nashville & TSU MOT Program. One document is a compiled list from % 2017 favorite places in Nashville & some quick tips/advice. We also have a Frequently Asked Questions page. Take advantage of these documents. Note: These are Google Docs. This will be an important program to use throughout your semesters. Save these documents to your Google Drive.
  o Click here to Open % 2017 Favorite Places in Nashville & Advice
  o FAQ

- SOTA NEEDS information from YOU ASAP. Respond to SOTA’s email with:
  o Official name you would like on your name tag
  o T-shirt size
  o Preferred email address

- There are several of you who have not been located on FACEBOOK. We have a combined group for both our class and your class for easy communication. If you are not yet apart of this group here is the link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/TSUMOTCO1718/

- We are hosting a Welcome cookout August 21st! It starts at 6:00 pm and our awesome SOTA President, Kate Nelson has offered up her house. Her address is 5812 Leslie Ave, Nashville, TN 37209! This is a great opportunity to meet everyone in a laid-back, fun environment before classes begin. We REALLY hope to see you all there!! If you haven’t received an invite via Facebook, please ask to join our TSUMOTCO1718 FB group.

Happy summer, and we can’t wait to meet you!

Kate Nelson, President
Rebecca Russell, Vice President
Kara Davidson, Secretary
Cat Stavola, Treasure
Chandler Slater, TNOTA Representative
Tori Willis, AOTA Assembly of Student Delegates Representative
Desiree Tanner, Fundraising
Reagan Worth, PR/Webmaster