

Pre-Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy applies the knowledge of human performance, the demands of tasks and environments, and the functional effects of disease and disability on a person's interests, abilities, and goals. The goal is to develop effective performance patterns and desired roles in the home, school, workplace, and community. All facets of performance (physical, cognitive, and psychosocial) are addressed; goal-directed activity is applied to enhance physical and psychosocial abilities, health, well-being, and life satisfaction.

Occupational therapists work in homes, hospitals, schools, or community agencies. Their patients are those who are adapting to functional limitations such as cardiac or neurological impairment, arthritis, learning disabilities, physical injury, emotional trauma, or mental retardation.

The program at Ohio State is a post-baccalaureate Master in Occupational Therapy (MOT) program. Thus, new freshmen and transfer students who are interested in occupational therapy as a career will complete an undergraduate program of their choice in preparation for application to the post-baccalaureate program in occupational therapy.

Graduates from Ohio State will receive the background they need to be well-prepared and effective professionals and competitive for practice nationwide.

Pursuing Occupational Therapy at Ohio State

Students need to select an undergraduate major in preparation for the MOT. Since the field draws upon a variety of disciplines, there is no single major or even type of major that is better suited than another for undergraduate preparation.

MOT candidates should plan an undergraduate curriculum that will give them a comprehensive base in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Students are encouraged to take advantage of academic opportunities in a wide variety of disciplines in preparation for a very people-oriented profession that relies heavily on interpersonal communication and problem-solving skills.

General Undergraduate Degree Requirements

In choosing to complete an undergraduate degree at Ohio State, prior to the MOT program, students may enroll in any academic unit offering an undergraduate degree. Undecided or undeclared students may enroll in Undergraduate Student Academic Services for the first year or two of university enrollment. However, students may choose to enroll in the School of Allied Medical Professions (AMP) for the first year or two as AMP pre-major students.

Ohio State students in any undergraduate major who are interested in pursuing Occupational Therapy are invited to join the Pre-DPT/MOT Club. Contact the Physical Therapy Division Office for information.

How to Prepare for the Master in Occupational Therapy Program at Ohio State

Admission to the Master in Occupational Therapy is competitive. Qualified applicants must have a bachelor's degree, or be near completion, and a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. They are required to submit competitive GRE scores, and must have completed a minimum of 40 documented hours of practical experience (observation, volunteer and/or work experience) with an occupational therapist.

Applicants must document these 40 hours in at least two of four areas:

- mental health
- physical function/rehabilitation
- intervention with children
- intervention in a gerontology setting

The following courses must be completed prior to beginning the MOT program:

- Abnormal Psychology (Psych 331)
- General Sociology (Sociology 101 or Rural Sociology 105)
- Human Anatomy (Anatomy 200)
- Human Physiology (EEOB 232 or Physiology 311 and 312)
- Intermediate essay writing (English 303, 304, or 367)
- Statistics (Statistics 135, 145, or 245)
- General Biology (Biology 101, 102, 113, or 114)

The professional occupational therapy curriculum presents the foundations of occupational therapy theory and science, models of occupational therapy practice, clinical experiences, and classes that use a problem-based, case study approach. This program provides students with a comprehensive, generalist occupational therapy education that prepares students to pass the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapists Examination. Students enroll for nine quarters that culminate in six months of supervised field work (internship) experience. The program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. More than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world are available. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus.

For more information, check these web sites:

Allied Medical Professions: amp.osu.edu
Pre-Occupational Therapy: amp.osu.edu/OT
Ohio State: osu.edu

American Occupational Therapy Association: www.aota.org
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu

to meet the interests of a diverse student population, including the pre-DPT/MOT student. In addition, students interested in the Allied Medical Professions may choose a living-learning environment specifically designed to meet their needs and interests. All AMP programs include internships and clinical experiences which are arranged individually with clinical sites experienced in offering the best available clinical instruction.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors & Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options. Students interested in the Allied Medical Professions may also choose to participate in the Health Sciences Scholars Program which brings together students with interests in all of the many health programs offered at Ohio State.

Honors & Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors & Scholars program at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapists work in a variety of settings, including private homes, skilled nursing facilities, children's hospitals, general hospitals, rehabilitation centers, state hospitals, public and special schools, and other community agencies. Some therapists establish their own private practices. With experience or additional education, occupational therapists may become administrators of occupational therapy departments.

Typical starting salaries for licensed occupational therapists range from \$45,000 to \$55,000 annually.

The occupational therapy program at Ohio State is the oldest program of its kind in Ohio and is very well respected nationally. Some of the program's features include:

- student laboratory facilities and classroom instruction all in one building
- a caring faculty dedicated to quality instruction
- an excellent placement rate
- fieldwork assignments in a wide variety of locations inside and outside Ohio

Revised September 2008. For the most up-to-date information on how to prepare for a program in occupational therapy, please visit amp.osu.edu/OT.

Contact information:

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