

PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM



COLLEGE OF
SCIENCE AND
MATHEMATICS

Pre-Occupational Therapy

The occupational therapist (OT) helps patients of all ages improve their ability to perform everyday tasks in their lives and in the workplace. OTs work with a variety of individuals, including those with mental, physical, developmental or emotional disabilities. They help clients with basic motor functions to improve their skills and also help them compensate for permanent loss of function.

The OT's goal is to assist and educate their clients so that they can have independent, productive and satisfying lives. OTs must have patience and strong interpersonal skills to inspire trust and respect as patient improvement is not always immediate. Ingenuity and imagination in adapting activities to individual needs is crucial.



Emerging Trends in the Occupational Therapy Profession

OT is a dynamic and progressive profession with continued advances in innovative practice, education, lifelong learning and public advocacy. Currently, individuals can practice as an occupational therapist with either a master's degree or a doctoral degree. As of 2016 there are 164 masters degree programs and 7 doctoral degree-granting programs in the U.S. In Ohio there are currently 4 Masters of Occupational Therapy (MOT) degree granting accredited programs and 2 Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) granting programs. These programs are 2-3 years in length. OTs work in a variety of settings including schools, hospitals, nursing care facilities and private practice offices. Advancement is possible if the OT specializes in a clinical area and gains expertise in treating a certain type of patient or ailment.

Core Pre-Requisites

- Biology BIO 1010 & 1070/1120
- Human A&P ANT 2100 & 2120
- Statistics STT 1600/2640
- Psychology PSY 1010, 3110, & 3410
- Sociology SOC 2000
- Physics PHY 1110, 1120 (or any 2 classes from Physical Science)

In addition to course work, many programs require experience or observational hours. MOT programs can require letters of recommendation (including one from an OT) and can possibly require the GRE.

MOT Programs in Ohio

Xavier University

University of Findlay

Cleveland State University

Shawnee State University

OTD Programs in Ohio

University of Toledo

The Ohio State University

OT versus PT

OT and PT are closely related but distinctly different careers. A PT works on the injury & preventing future injuries. An OT works on helping the patient to understand their abilities and ways to manage health. A PT focuses on movement & mobility & an OT focuses on restoring function. Often the two will work together to support the mutual goals of the patient.

OT at Wright State University

Wright State University offers the courses necessary to meet the requirements for entry to OT programs. In addition, most courses are offered two or three times per year.

There are many undergraduate fields of study that will prepare students for the OT graduate programs. Among the most common at WSU are Athletic Training, Rehabilitation Science, Sociology, Sports Science and Psychology.

Ohio has a variety of OT programs throughout the state. Most of these programs have specific requirements in addition to the core set of admission requirements listed on the front of this fact-sheet. These courses include psychology of aging, bioethics, kinesiology, neuroanatomy and courses in the physical sciences. In addition to the pre-requisites, students will likely need to complete a standardized test assessing communication and reasoning skills (GRE); gain exposure to a variety of OT experiences; have their personal and interpersonal attributes evaluated (interview, references); maintain GPAs (cumulative, science and non-science) above a 3.00. Applicants offered admission typically average a GPA of 3.3.

Perks of the Profession

Excellent Income

In 2015, the median annual wage for OTs was \$80,150 with the highest 10% earning \$116,030 .

Great Career Outlook

Employment of OTs is expected to increase by 27% between 2014 and 2024, which is much faster than average. The demand for OTs will increase in both elderly populations and individuals with disabilities.

Diverse Job Setting

Occupational therapists can find employment in various types of settings. OTs can work in hospitals, offices of health practitioners, public and private schools, nursing care facilities, home health care services, outpatient care centers, community care centers and government agencies. A small number of OTs are self-employed in private practice.

Fewer Years of Education

A two-year master's degree is the current typical level of education to be able to work as an OT, transitioning into a three-year doctorate program.

Satisfying Health Care Career

OTs provide holistic care to help patients improve their lives and achieve independence. It is a great career if you want to help people and make a difference in their lives. Part-time employment is also possible as nearly 30% of OTs choose to work part-time.



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For additional information please visit
our website:

www.wright.edu/prehealth

Contact our advisor:

Harolynn Williams

Office: 106 Oelman Hall

(937) 775-3180

harolynn.williams@wright.edu