Pre-Occupational Therapy 2016-2017

Occupational therapists treat injured, ill, or disabled patients through the therapeutic use of everyday activities. They help these patients develop, recover, and improve the skills needed for daily living and working.

Entry-level occupational therapists require a Master’s degree, either an MA or MS in Occupational Therapy or an M.O.T. (Master’s in Occupational Therapy). Most programs require two years of study after completion of the undergraduate prerequisites. The median salary for Occupational Therapists in 2014 was $78,810 and the U.S. Department of Labor estimates that the number of jobs in occupation therapy will grow much faster than average through 2024.

The prerequisite coursework for OT programs can vary greatly from program to program. Some OT programs require completion of a 4-year undergraduate degree before admission, while others primarily accept students who began their undergraduate preparation at the same college, but will accept some transfer students with the correct pre-requisites. Interested students are encouraged to thoroughly research prospective OT programs in order to best prepare for their programs of choice. The guide below lists the most common pre-requisite courses.

**Curriculum Guide**

*note cautions in paragraph above

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Coursework**</th>
<th>St. John Fisher Courses</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 courses in Anatomy and Physiology</td>
<td>BIOL 105 &amp; BIOL 106 OR BIOL 320 &amp; BIOL 314</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 – 3 courses in Psychology (General, Developmental, and Abnormal)</td>
<td>PSYC 100, PSYC 231, PSYC 211</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 – 2 courses in Statistics</td>
<td>PSYC 201/204 (other options possible)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 course in Sociology</td>
<td>SOCI 101 (other options possible)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 course in Physics</td>
<td>PHYS 121</td>
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Some programs also require General Biology (BIOL 120/127) and General Chemistry (CHEM 103)

**A “C” grade or better is required in all pre-requisites. A competitive GPA is about 3.3.

**Pre-Professional Exam**

Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

*not all programs require a pre-professional exam

**Clinical Experience**

Most programs require at least 50 hours of documented shadowing, volunteer experience, or employment in an Occupational Therapy setting.

Additional Information: American Occupational Therapy Association

(www.aota.org)

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