

Occupational Therapy Profession Educational Planning Guide

Occupational therapists help patients improve their ability to perform tasks in living and working environments. They work with individuals who suffer from a mentally, physically, developmentally, or emotionally disabling condition. Occupational therapists use treatments to develop, recover, or maintain the daily living and work skills of their patients. The therapist helps clients not only to improve their basic motor functions and reasoning abilities, but also to compensate for permanent loss of function. The goal is to help clients have independent, productive, and satisfying lives.

Occupational therapists help clients to perform all types of activities, from using a computer to caring for daily needs such as dressing, cooking, and eating. Physical exercises may be used to increase strength and dexterity, while other activities may be chosen to improve visual acuity or the ability to discern patterns. Occupational therapists also use computer programs to help clients improve decision-making, abstract-reasoning, problem-solving, and perceptual skills, as well as memory, sequencing, and coordination—all of which are important for independent living.

Occupational therapists must be licensed, requiring a master's degree in occupational therapy, 6 months of supervised fieldwork, and passing scores on national and State examinations. A bachelor's degree must be completed before a student can begin an Occupational Therapy master's degree program. There is no requirement that the bachelor's degree be in a specific major, but students should be sure to incorporate the required master's program course prerequisites into their undergraduate curriculum (see program specific information below).

Employment is expected to grow much faster than average and job opportunities should be good, especially for therapists treating the elderly. Median annual earnings of occupational therapists were \$60,470 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between \$50,450 and \$73,710. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor)

The following is a list of area schools that offer Master of Science degree programs in Occupational Therapy or combined bachelor's and master's degree programs in Occupational Therapy. Some of the required course prerequisites for these programs may be taken at CLC.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

M.S. in Occupational Therapy

Website: <http://www.ahs.uic.edu/ot/>

M.S. Program Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- GPA of at least at 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours earned for the baccalaureate degree
- Submission of GRE scores
- Personal statement and curriculum vitae
- Three letters of recommendation
- Present evidence of current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) Level C/Health Care Provider or Basic Life Support of the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.
- Recommended: at least 40 hours of experience with an occupational therapist prior to application. This experience should ideally occur in at least two different practice settings.
- The Department currently accepts up to 30 students each year into this program
- Completion of the following course prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or above by time of entry-
 1. One course in anthropology, sociology, social psychology, or cultural studies
 2. Child Psychology or Child Development* (PSY 222)
 3. Abnormal Psychology* (PSY 223)

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Transfer Guides can be viewed online at <http://www.clcillinois.edu/depts/cou/transfer/index.asp>

4. Statistics (MTH 222)
5. Human Anatomy w/30 hours of human cadaver lab study*(BIO 124 will meet a portion of this requirement)
6. Human Physiology w/lab*(BIO 124 will meet a portion of the Anatomy/Physiology requirement; consult UIC advisor for details)
7. Recommended: Medical Terminology (HIT 111)

*These four courses must be taken within 5 years prior to admission to the Department. For students who have difficulty obtaining a cadaver laboratory experience of 30 hours prior to enrollment at UIC, the occupational therapy department provides a special 30 hour OT cadaver lab in the spring of the first year of occupational therapy coursework. This is offered free of charge to admitted students. This is the only prerequisite that can be completed after enrollment.

RUSH UNIVERSITY

Special combined bachelor's/master's program

Rush has "three-two affiliations" with schools that offer the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree and a M.S. in Occupational Therapy in five years, completing the first 3 years at the affiliated school and the last two years at Rush. Participating schools include: Carthage College in Kenosha, WI and Dominican University in River Forest, IL. View the following website for more information:

http://www.rushu.rush.edu/servlet/Satellite?MetaAttrName=meta_university&ParentId=1194024360236&ParentType=RushUnivLevel4Page&c=content_block&cid=1194024360176&level1-p=4&level1-pp=1194024360188&level1-ppp=1194024360188&pagename=Rush%2Fcontent_block%2FContentBlockDetail

M.S. in Occupational Therapy

Website:

http://www.rushu.rush.edu/servlet/Satellite?c=RushUnivLevel2Page&cid=1194024357186&pagename=Rush%2FRushUnivLevel2Page%2FLevel_2_College_GME_CME_Page

M.S. Program Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree
- Submission of GRE scores
- Three letters of recommendation (one must be from an occupational therapy practitioner)
- Experience w/occupational therapy through observation, volunteering, or work experience.
- The Department currently accepts up to 25 students each year into this program
- Completion of the following course prerequisites w/grade of 'C' or higher-
 1. Human Anatomy w/lab* preferably cadaver and Human Physiology w/lab* (BIO 161 and BIO 124)
 2. Statistics (MTH 222)
 3. Sociology or anthropology (SOC 121 or ANT 121)
 4. Human growth and development (lifespan) (PSY 222 and HUS 231)
 5. Two additional psychology courses

*These two courses must be taken within 5 years prior to admission to the program.

MIDWESTERN

M.S. in Occupational Therapy

Website: <http://www.midwestern.edu/il%2Dot/>

M.S. Program Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry
- GPA of at least at 2.75
- Submission of GRE scores
- Complete interview process
- Have completed a first aid course within three years prior to enrollment

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- Present evidence of current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) Level C/Health Care Provider or Basic Life Support of the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.
- Reflect a people/service orientation through community service or extracurricular activities
- Pass a criminal background check
- Completion of the following course prerequisites w/grade of 'C' or higher (check with a Midwestern representative for CLC course equivalencies)-
 1. Human Anatomy
 2. Human Physiology
 3. Statistics
 4. Human development
 5. Abnormal psychology
 6. Social & Behavioral Science
 7. Additional courses in science and math recommended- chemistry, physics, additional biology courses

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

M.S. in Occupational Therapy

Website: <http://www.govst.edu/chp/dot/mot/default.aspx?id=5932>

M.S. Program Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 and minimum prerequisite courses GPA of 3.0
- Completion of the following course prerequisites (check with a Governors State representative for CLC course equivalencies)-
 1. 9 semester hours of Social Behavioral Sciences including General Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, and Developmental Psychology
 2. 20 semester hours of Natural Sciences including Anatomy, Physiology, General Chemistry w/lab, Organic Chemistry w/lab, and General Physics w/lab
 3. 3 semester hours from art, theater, music, dance, photography, or industrial arts
 4. Medical Terminology
 5. Orientation to Occupational Therapy
 6. Statistics

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Combined B.S. in Health Sciences/Masters in Occupational Therapy program

Website: http://www.csu.edu/OccupationalTherapy/comb_admiss.htm

Admission Requirements:

- Transfer students apply to the College of Health Sciences
- Minimum cumulative GPA of at least at 3.0
- Completion of the following course prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or higher-
 1. ENG 121 and 122
 2. MTH 122 and 222
 3. 6 hours in a foreign language
 4. 12 hours from Humanities: Art, Literature, Music, Humanities, Philosophy, Communications; 3 hours must be in Fine Arts and students should complete CMM 121
 5. AOS 112
 6. PSY 121
 7. ANT 121 or SOC 121
 8. BIO 161
 9. CLC does not have an equivalent to CSU's Human Physiology and Anatomy courses

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M.S. in Occupational Therapy

Website: <http://www.csu.edu/OccupationalTherapy/>

M.S. Program Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree
- GPA of at least at 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours
- Two letters of recommendation
- Submit a personal essay
- Interview
- Completion of the following course prerequisites-
 1. Anthropology or Sociology (ANT 121 or SOC 121)
 2. Developmental Psychology (PSY 222)
 3. Abnormal Psychology (PSY 223)
 4. Statistics (MTH 222)
 5. Computer Science (AOS 112)
 6. Human Anatomy w/30 hours of human cadaver lab study (no CLC equivalent)
 7. Human Physiology (no CLC equivalent)
 8. Introduction to Occupational Therapy (no CLC equivalent)

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MILWAUKEE

BS/MS Professional-Entry Program

The professional entry program is a BS/MS program where students complete the first two years of professional studies at the undergraduate level (obtaining the B.S. in Occupational Studies) and the final 36 credits at the graduate level (obtaining the M.S. in Occupational Therapy).

If you are interested in the Occupational Therapy Professional-Entry Program at UWM, College of Health Sciences, please contact undergraduate advisor, Katie Koncki to help you in determining appropriate prerequisite undergraduate coursework and with the application process. She can be reached at katiek@uwm.edu; (414) 229-6448

Website: <http://www4.uwm.edu/chs/academics/undergraduate/occupationaltherapy/index.html>

Admission Requirements:

- GPA of at least at 2.75, at least 3.0 recommended; based on all transfer courses taken including courses that have been repeated
- A minimum of 70 hours in a disability related experience; must be in an environment where the applicant directly observes and interacts with a person with a disability
- Completion of the following professional study prerequisites w/grade of 'C' or higher (check with a UWM advisor for CLC course equivalencies)-
 1. Anatomy & Physiology I and II - BIO SCI 202 and 203
 2. Informal Logic Critical Reasoning - PHILOS 111
 3. Intro to Psychology - PSYCH 101
 4. Human Life Cycle – HCA 203
 5. Statistics in the Health Professions – HMS 270
 6. Physics for the Health Professions – PHYSICS 110
 7. Enhancing Health Through Activity, Occupation, and Technology – OCCTHPY 260
 8. Psychosocial Aspects of Leisure – THERREC 200
 9. Disability, Society and the Person or Client Diversity in Health Sciences – THERREC 202 or OCCTHPY 245

The College of Lake County Counseling Center produces this guide as an accommodation for students. Every effort is made to maintain accurate information; however, this information is subject to frequent change. Students should contact the four-year school to keep informed of changes, as final responsibility for verifying information rests with the student.

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