

Occupational Therapy Information

What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational therapy uses everyday activities as the means of helping people to achieve independence. The term occupation refers to activities that are meaningful to the individual within the environments in which the person lives.

Therapists work with individuals who have conditions that are mentally, physically, developmentally, or emotionally disabling, and help them to develop, recover, or maintain daily living and work skills. They not only help clients improve basic motor functions and reasoning abilities, but also compensate for permanent loss of function. Their goal is to help clients have independent, productive, and satisfying lives.

For the person with a physical disability, the first focus is on performing critical daily activities, such as dressing, grooming, bathing, and eating. Once these skills are mastered, the occupational therapy program is built around the skills needed to perform a person's daily responsibilities, such as caring for a home and family, participating in education, or reaching and holding equipment.

The goals for a client with mental illness are also based on the ability to function independently. In treating mental or emotional problems, the therapy program often includes practice in managing time, working productively with others, and enjoying leisure.

Where do they work?

Occupational therapists work in the following types of settings: hospitals, academic health centers, schools, private practice, the military, colleges and universities, outpatient rehabilitation facilities, adult day-care programs, medical centers, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation centers, home health agencies, government agencies, sub-acute care hospitals, assisted living facilities and state hospitals.

What is the job outlook?

Based upon information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of occupational therapists is expected to increase much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008, due to anticipated growth in demand for rehabilitation and long-term care services. The growing number of older Americans who may need specialized services and the ever expanding application of occupational therapy to various disabilities should contribute significantly to an increase in demand and the creation of as many as 15,000 new jobs before the end of the century. Areas of greatest opportunity include community settings and under-served geographic areas.

What do OTs earn?

The average salary for Jefferson occupational therapy class of 2006 graduates was \$58,076 (salary range \$40,000 - \$87,360). 97% of the occupational therapy students had jobs following graduation or their last clinical affiliation. Many had between 2 and 3 job offers to choose from before accepting their first position.

Who can I contact for more information about Occupational Therapy?

American Occupational Therapy Association
4720 Montgomery Lane
PO Box 31220
Bethesda, MD 20824-1220
Phone: 301.652.2682 or 800.729.2682
Web site: www.aota.org

Occupational Therapy Programs

BS-MS Degree:

Full-time, 3 year program
Begins in September only

Entry-Level Master of Science Degree:

Full-time, 2 year program
Begins in September only
This program is designed for those students who have a bachelor's degree in a field other than occupational therapy or –
Complete the 3+2 program with either Villanova University, Saint Joseph's University, Muhlenberg College, Immaculata University or the University of Delaware.

Post Professional Master of Science Degree:

For students who possess a Bachelor of Science Degree or Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Occupational Therapy.
This program can be completed on a part-time or full-time basis.

Occupational Therapy Doctorate:

For students who possess a Master Of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy

Admission Requirements

Students must complete specific prerequisite credits prior to matriculation. Academic courses from accredited institutions with a grade of C or above and CLEP scores are acceptable for transfer. For the graduate programs, the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) is also required.

The following institutions have 3+2 Articulated Curriculum Agreements with Jefferson College of Health Professions for the Master's in Occupational Therapy Program. Under these agreements students will earn both the Bachelor's degree and the Master's in Occupational Therapy in 5 years after graduating from high school. Below are the admission requirements and information about each agreement for high school students.

College	Admission Requirements	Application Requirements & Deadline	Curriculum Options	Curriculum Requirements
Immaculata University	-SAT (all 3 sections) 1650 or higher -Cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher -Interview with Immaculata Univ.-JCHP joint admissions committee (late winter – early spring)	-Official high school transcripts -SAT scores -Essay -Activities Resume (including OT hours) -Application fee -December 15th deadline	-3 – year B.S. in Exercise Science/Pre-OT - Credits earned during the first year at JCHP will be counted toward the completion of the Immaculata Univ. B.S. degree	-Students must earn at least a 3.0 overall GPA -A grade of at least a 'C' is required to transfer prerequisite coursework to JCHP
Muhlenberg College	-SAT (CR&M) 1280 or higher with neither score lower than 580 -Cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher -Interview with Muhlenberg-JCHP joint admissions committee (late winter – early spring)	-Official high school transcripts -SAT scores -Essay -Activities Resume (including OT hours) -Application fee -December 1st deadline	-3 – year B.S. in Natural Science track or the A.B. Psychology or Sociology - Credits earned during the first year at JCHP will be counted toward the completion of the Muhlenberg College's B.S. or A.B. degree	-Students must earn at least a 3.0 overall GPA -A grade of at least a 'C' is required to transfer prerequisite coursework to JCHP
Saint Joseph's University	-SAT (critical reading and math) 1200 or higher -Cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher -Interview with SJU -JCHP joint admissions committee (late winter – early spring)	-Official high school transcripts -SAT scores -Personal Statement -2 letters of reference -Application fee -November 30th deadline	-3 – year B.S. in Biology or Interdisciplinary Health Services - Credits earned during the first year at JCHP will be counted toward the completion of the SJU University's B.S. degree	-Students must earn at least a 3.0 overall GPA -A grade of at least a 'C' is required to transfer prerequisite coursework to JCHP
University of Delaware	Please refer to the Undergraduate Admissions Criteria as outlined by the University of Delaware - Interview with U of D -JCHP joint admissions committee (late January – early February)	-Official high school transcripts -SAT Reasoning Test scores -Admissions Essay with reference to OT interest - letters of reference -Application fee -December 1st deadline	-3 – year B.S. in Health Studies - Credits earned during the first year at JCHP will be counted toward the completion of the University of Delaware B.S. degree	-Students must earn at least a 3.0 overall GPA -A grade of at least a 'C' is required to transfer prerequisite coursework to JCHP
Villanova University	-SAT (critical reading and math) 1280 or higher -Cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher -Interview with VU -JCHP joint admissions committee (late winter – early spring)	-Official high school transcripts -SAT scores -Essay -Activities Resume (to include OT hours) -Application fee -November 1st deadline	-3 – year B.S. in Biology or B.S. in Psychology curricular track -Credits earned during the first year at JCHP will be counted toward the completion of the Villanova University's B.S. degree in Biology or Psychology	-Students must earn at least a 3.0 GPA both overall and in the sciences -A grade of at least a 'C' is required to transfer prerequisite coursework to JCHP

Prerequisite Course Requirements

Combined BSMS in Occupational Therapy

Course	Credits
Human Life Sciences (including lab)*	
Anatomy & Physiology I	4
Anatomy & Physiology II	4
Psychology	
Developmental or Lifespan (not one specific age level)	3
Abnormal	3
Social Sciences	
Sociology	3
Cultural and/or ethnic diversity course	3
English	
Composition (strongly recommended)	3
English elective	3
Mathematics	
Statistics	3
Electives	
Humanities, Arts, Math, Social, or Natural Sciences	27
Total	56

*Strongly recommend Anatomy & Physiology. Other acceptable science courses include Kinesiology and Exercise Physiology

Entry-level Master's in Occupational Therapy

Course	Credits
Human Life Sciences (including lab)*	
Anatomy & Physiology I	4
Anatomy & Physiology II	4
Psychology	
Developmental or Lifespan (not one specific age level)	3
Abnormal	3
Social Sciences	
Sociology	3
Cultural and/or ethnic diversity course	3
English	
Composition (strongly recommended)	3
English elective	3
Mathematics	
Statistics	3
Total	29

*Strongly recommend Anatomy & Physiology. Other acceptable science courses include Kinesiology and Exercise Physiology