



# Master of Occupational Therapy

## School of Allied Medical Professions

## Undergraduate Planning

### What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational Therapy is a profession that uses "occupation," meaning activities with specific goals, to improve a client's performance and prevent, lessen, or overcome disabilities. The occupational therapist, working cooperatively with other members of the health team, uses purposeful activity in a variety of settings to reduce physical and psychosocial disability.

Occupational therapists work with individuals of all ages with such disabilities as cardiac or neurological impairment, arthritis, physical injury, mental retardation, and emotional disturbance.

In keeping with a national mandate from the Occupational Therapy Association and its accrediting body American Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), The Ohio State University offers a Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program. Freshman entering the University who are interested in Occupational Therapy must complete an undergraduate program in preparation for application to the post-baccalaureate program in occupational therapy.

Students will receive comprehensive training in Occupational Therapy theory, practice principles and techniques. The program progresses from foundational courses to activity analysis, evaluation and intervention courses. The course content in year two emphasizes management, consultation, technology, and research in addition to intervention across practice arenas.

### Career Opportunities in Occupational Therapy?

Occupational Therapists work in a variety of settings, including private homes, 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

### Salary Trends

Median annual earnings of occupational therapists were \$54,660 in May 2004. The middle 50 percent earned between \$45,690 and \$67,010. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$37,430, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$81,600.

### College Preparation

Students need to select an undergraduate major in preparation for the Master in Occupational Therapy (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.

Students will apply to the MOT program after completion of the bachelor's degree. 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 USAS for the first year or two of university enrollment. However, some students may choose to enroll in the School of Allied Medical Professions for the first year or two as Allied Med undecided students or enroll in their sophomore year in the Health Sciences program.

During their freshman year, students begin taking courses, which will meet the General Education Curriculum (GEC) requirements. The GEC is a body of courses designed to ensure that each student becomes acquainted with the basic areas of academic study: writing and related skills, culture/international experience, social diversity in the United States, natural sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities. Required courses within these areas may vary depending on the degree area the student decides to pursue.

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

Admission to the Master in Occupational Therapy is expected to be highly competitive. Qualified applications will have a bachelor's degree and a minimum overall GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. They will be 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) in an occupational therapy setting in a combination of mental health, rehabilitation, pediatric and gerontology settings.

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

- **Abnormal Psychology**  
(3 credit hours)
- **Human Biology**  
(5 credit hours)
- **General Sociology**  
(3 to 5 credit hours)
- **Human Anatomy**  
(5 to 6 credit hours)
- **Human Physiology**  
(5 credit hours)
- **Intermediate Writing, e.g. English Composition**  
(3 to 5 credit hours)
- **General Statistics**  
(3 credit hours)

## Occupational Therapy Requirements

The professional occupational therapy curriculum will present the foundations of occupational therapy theory and science, models of occupational therapy practice, and clinical experiences using a problem-based, case study approach. Through their study of multiple views of practice and the interdisciplinary origins of occupational therapy theories, students will be expected to apply basic science, analyze theoretical assumptions, and evaluate application of intervention in laboratory exercises. The program will culminate in six months of supervised fieldwork experience. Students will enroll for seven quarters plus two quarters of fieldwork over two and a half years.

## More About Occupational Therapy

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 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.

## About Ohio State

The Ohio State University is recognized throughout the nation and the world for its innovative programs, exceptional faculty, and state-of-the-art facilities. In fact, Ohio State is consistently ranked among the country's best institutions for overall academic reputation. Because Ohio State is a major teaching and research university, students who choose to pursue a professional program at Ohio State receive excellent preparation for the job market.

Offering over 170 majors and more than 10,500 courses, Ohio State allows students to tailor their education to their interests through double majors, minors, and personalized study programs. With hundreds of student activities and organizations, the university also offers a diversity of extracurricular experiences to those who want to be involved.

## For More Information

Contact the Division of Occupational Therapy, College of Medicine, School of Allied Medical Professions, The Ohio State University, 406 Atwell Hall, 453 West Tenth Avenue, Columbus, OH, 43210-1262; 614-292-9579. Look for us on the World Wide Web at <http://www.amp.ohio-state.edu>.