



Pre-Health Professions Program

Occupational Therapy (MSOT/DrOT) Professional Program Admission

Occupational therapists (OT) are highly trained and licensed allied health professionals tasked with helping patients with physical, mental or cognitive conditions to develop, re-learn or retain their life and work skills. Occupational therapists usually work closely with other medical allied health professionals (e.g. physicians, nurses, physical therapists, speech therapists, etc.) as part of a patient's medical team. OTs assess their patients' abilities and develop treatment plans to enable them to reach their personal work and/or life skill targets. Occupational therapists may suggest and assist in task modifications, new skill development or environment adjustments. OTs also work closely with a client's family &/or care giver, providing both education and support. While OTs are trained to work in a wide variety of health care settings, they can also choose a specialized practice, working with children, adolescents, aging adults or in rehabilitation to name just a few areas.

Occupational therapists must obtain a professional degree (MSOT – Master of Science Occupational Therapy &/or DrOT – Doctor of Occupational Therapy) from an accredited school or college of occupational therapy/science and pass a state licensure exam prior to practicing. Doctoral programs generally require applicants to have a Master's degree and professional experience prior to admission. Occupational therapists are also required to complete varying hours of continuing education competency units (CCU) prior to renewing their licensure credentials (e.g. KY – 15 CCU units).

Admission requirements or recommendations to most entry level graduate occupational therapy programs (MSOT) include the following:

- Bachelors degree from an accredited College/University (any major)
- Appropriate pre-requisite coursework
- GPA 3.0 or higher (accepted students usually have GPAs 3.4 or higher)
- Satisfactory GRE scores (Graduate Record Exam)
- College academic transcripts
- OT shadowing/observation experience (some require; some recommended)
- Recommendations

Application to graduate occupational therapy programs occurs primarily through the centralized application service OTCAS – Occupational Therapy



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Pre-Occupational Therapy (MSOT) Admissions Pre-requisites

<i>General Requirement</i>	<i>Recommended BC Courses</i>
Anatomy & Physiology (+lab) (2 terms)	BIO101/102: Anatomy & Physiology I & II
Physics (+ lab) (1 term)	PHY 217: General Physics I w/ Algebra
Psychology (1 term)	PSY 211: Abnormal Psychology
Human Development (1 term)	PSY 214: Ethology or CFS 130: Lifespan Human Development
Statistics (1 term)	ECO 250: Applied Statistics

Suggested by Some MSOT Programs

Medical Terminology	(online)
Communication	COM 206: Interpersonal Communication COM 207: Intercultural Communication



The following courses are some that you might want to consider adding to your academic preparation for a graduate program in Occupational Therapy. They are not specifically required for admission, but may provide useful foundational background.

<i>Subject/Course</i>	<i>BC Courses Suggestions</i>
Human Performance	HHP 280: Adapted Physical Education HHP 315: Motor Behavior Across Lifespan
Neuroscience	BIO 325: Neurobiology PSY 212: Behavioral Neuropsychology
Psychology	PSY 231: Social Gerontology PSY 207: Principles of Learning
Nutrition	CFS 221: Fundamentals of Nutrition
Child Development	CFS 313: Infancy and Early Childhood CFS 315: Middle Childhood and Adolescence
Health	HLT 215: Significant Issues in Health

Professional Society Information & Links

American Occupational Therapy Association

www.aota.org

American Occupational Therapy Foundation

www.aotf.org

Kentucky Occupational Therapy Association

<http://kotaweb.org/index.php>