



Pre-Occupational Therapy Advising Sheet

Occupational therapy practitioners enable people to live life to its fullest by helping them recover from or prevent injury, illness, or disability. Common occupational therapy interventions include helping children with disabilities to participate fully in school and social situations, helping people recovering from injury to regain skills, and providing supports for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes. Successful completion of a master's degree program in occupational therapy is required to practice as an occupational therapist. In the US, optional degrees include a professional doctorate in occupational therapy (OTD) or PhD degree. In addition to the coursework, students complete at least 6 months of supervised clinical internships in a variety of health care and community settings are available to licensed OT's. For licensing, students must graduate from an ACOTE- accredited program, as well as pass the NBCOT certification examination.

Common Pre-Occupational Therapy Prerequisite Courses		
Biology	One semester w/labs are generally recommended at most schools	BIO 1150/L or BIO 1210/L
General Chemistry	One semester w/labs are generally required	CHM 1210/L
Anatomy/ Physiology	One semester is generally required	BIO 2340, BIO 2350, BIO 4240, BIO 4460
Psychology	At least two courses are generally required: Abnormal and developmental psychology. Some schools require an entire developmental psychology course that covers from birth to death	PSY 2201, PSY 3305 and/or PSY 4150
Sociology/ Anthropology	Introductory sociology or anthropology is generally required	SOC 2201 or ANT 1020
Statistics	One semester is generally required	STA 1200 or STA 1300
English	One year is required	ENG 1103, ENG 2105
Medical Terminology	Some schools require or recommend one semester	BIO 2020

Resources

- American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA): www.aota.org
- List of OTCAS participating educational programs:
https://help.liaisonedu.com/OTCAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Starting_Your_OTCAS_Application/Getting_Started_with_Your_OTCAS_Application/04_Participating_Programs_and_Eligibility
- National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT): www.nbcot.org
- The Occupational Therapy Association of California: <https://www.otaconline.org>