



# Pre-Occupational Therapy

## University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

### 2009-2010

Programs in occupational therapy prepare students to work with children and adults who have physical, cognitive, or emotional disabilities that interfere with their ability to function independently and engage in daily activities. Occupational therapists serve as critical members of a comprehensive treatment team, frequently consulting with physicians, physical and speech therapists, nurses, social workers, psychologists, vocational counselors, teachers, other allied health specialists, and family members. They blend a scientific knowledge of the human body and mind with an understanding of the numerous individual, social, and environmental challenges associated with disability. Many occupational therapy education programs are presently in a state of transition, as some are still at the bachelor's level but others are at the master's level. All occupational therapy programs must be at the master's level by 2007; thus, completion of a bachelor's degree will be required for admission.

**Pre-occupational therapy is a program of study, not an academic major. No specific academic major is required in the pre-occupational therapy program.** However, most students will choose one of the following majors to complete their pre-occupational therapy requirements:

1. Biology major with chemistry or pre-professional health minor
2. Kinesiology major with emphasis in Human Performance (no minor is necessary in this major)
3. Athletic Training major (no minor is necessary in this major)
4. Psychology major with pre-professional health minor

Although the minimum grade point for admission into an occupational therapy program is 3.0, pre-occupational therapy students need a much higher GPA to be competitive. Thus, it is imperative that your college grades are mostly A's, starting in the freshman year. Pre-occupational therapy students need to be aware that it is nearly impossible to pull up one's grade point after a poor freshman year start.

#### **Area Occupational Therapy Program Pre-requisites:**

##### **University of Minnesota - <http://www.ot.umn.edu>**

Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II (Biol 214 and 314)  
Statistics (Math 246)  
General and Abnormal Psychology (Pysc 100 and 350)  
Human Development (Pysc 230)  
Medical Terminology (Fmhn 220)  
Orientation to Occupational Therapy (available via distance education)  
Applied Arts (1 course, 3 credits)

##### **College of St. Scholastica in Duluth - <http://www.css.edu/x2115.xml>**

Medical Terminology (Fmhn 220)  
Anatomy and Physiology I & II (Biol 214 and 314)  
Pathophysiology (1 course)  
Introduction to Chemistry and Biochemistry (Chem 103 and 150)  
Physics (Phys 100 or 211)  
Statistics (Math 246 or Psych 265)  
Research Methods (Kins 474)  
Developmental Psychology (Psych 230)  
Abnormal Psychology (Psych 351)  
Kinesiology (Kins 304 – recommended but not required)  
Group Dynamics (1 course)

##### **Concordia University of Wisconsin - <http://www.cuw.edu/OccupationalTherapy>**

Anatomy and Physiology I & II (Biol 214 and 314)

Computer Applications (Cs 100)

**University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse** - <http://www.uwlax.edu/ot/>

Anatomy and Physiology I & II (Biol 214 and 314)

Physics (Phys 100 or 211)

Statistics (Math 246) – need 4 credits

Psychology (Psych 100 and 230)

**Other Occupational Therapy Programs:**

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists web site at <http://www.wfot.org.au> provides a listing of occupational therapy programs and schools in the U.S.

**Work Experience in Occupational Therapy:**

All occupational therapy programs require observational or actual work experience in occupational therapy prior to admission. Check each occupational therapy school's admissions requirements to determine the minimum number of observational hours. Keep good records of the numbers of hours of observation and the types of activities that were observed.

**Admission to Occupational Therapy Program:**

Application forms are available from each school. Applications also include official transcripts, letters of recommendation, and application fee. Applicants are screened on the basis of grade point average, GRE scores (if required), observational and actual work in occupational therapy, letters of recommendation, and physical and mental stamina. Many programs require a personal interview with the Admissions Committee.

**Professional Associations:**

Learn more about occupational therapy at the website for the American Occupational Therapy Association <http://www.aota.org>.

**For more information, you may contact:**

UWEC pre-occupational therapy advisers in Human Performance:

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