

Pre-Occupational Therapy

The William J. and Marian A. Klish
Health Careers Center
Connecting students to possibilities

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

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. Occupational therapy education programs are presently at the master's level; 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:

- Kinesiology major with emphasis in Rehabilitation Science or Exercise Science
- Psychology major with Kinesiology minor

Admission Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree with any major from an accredited institution
- Completion of all prerequisite courses
- Competitive overall and science GPAs (3.4 overall average for those accepted)
- Competitive Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score (required for some programs)
- Observational or work experience in occupational therapy
- Letters of recommendation
- Completed application with Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) (for some programs)
- Face-to-face interview required by many programs

Required Pre-OT Courses: (Admission requirements and prerequisites may differ from school to school, so it is important to check with schools for specific requirements.)

Courses	Required Credits	Suggested UWEC Courses
Human Anatomy and Physiology	2 semesters	BIOL 214 and 314 (8cr)
Mathematics	Statistics	MATH 246 (4cr) or PSYC 265 (3cr)
Med Terminology	1 semester	NRSG 220 (1cr)
Psychology	2-3 semesters	PSYC 100, 230 and 251 (9cr)
Sociology	1 semester	SOC 101 (3cr) or ANTH 161 (3cr)

Non-Academic Considerations: 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.

Graduate Record Exam (GRE): This standardized exam is required for admission to most occupational therapy programs. The exam consists of 3 sections, Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Analytical Writing. It is often taken in the spring semester or summer following the junior year. Go to: <http://www.ets.org/gre> for

more information on the GRE.

Suggested Pre-OT Curriculum: The following program is suggested for a student in any major. It is important that students work with a pre-OT advisor each semester. This is one example of how the pre-OT courses can be arranged. They do not necessarily need to be taken in this order, and certain majors will require taking them in a different order. Work closely with your major and pre-OT advisor to determine the best order for you and your major.

Freshman year – Fall Math* Chem 105 + 106 Soc 101 Writ 116 LE and major courses	Freshman year – Spring Math Psyc 100 NRSG 220 Kins 294 LE and major courses
Sophomore year – Fall Biol 214 Phys 211 LE course or additional math	Sophomore year – Spring Biol 314 or Kins 304 Math 246 or Psyc 265 Psyc 230 Additional science
Junior year – Fall Psyc 251 Additional science LE and major courses	Junior year – Spring LE and major courses (Take GRE)
Senior year – Fall Complete Major/Minor/LE Additional recommended courses Apply to OT programs (October 1 st is the last opportunity to take GRE)	Senior year – Spring Complete Major/Minor/LE Additional recommended courses

*Beginning course in mathematics depends on UWEC Mathematics Placement Exam score

UWEC Pre-Occupational Therapy Advisors:

Ms. Michelle Mattes (mattesm@uwec.edu)

Dr. Marquell Johnson (johnmarq@uwec.edu)

Dr. Saori Braun (braunsi@uwec.edu)

See a Life & Health Science Advisor in the Advising, Retention and Career Center

More Information:

- University of Minnesota www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/occupational-therapy-ot
- Concordia University of Wisconsin www.cuw.edu/search.html?query=OccupationalTherapy
- College of St. Scholastica (Duluth) www.css.edu
- University of Wisconsin – Madison kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/elotd/
- University of Wisc.– Milw. www.uwm.edu/healthsciences/academics/masters-occupational-therapy
- University of Wisconsin – La Crosse www.uwlax.edu/ot/
- St. Catherine University <https://onlineota.stkate.edu/>
- Carroll University www.carrollu.edu/gradprograms/occupational-therapy/
- Mt. Mary Univ. www.mtmary.edu/majors-programs/graduate/occupational-therapy/
- For more information and to learn more about occupational therapy www.aota.org

Visit the **Health Careers Center** in Schofield Hall 30
 or go to uwec.ly/hcc.

Join the **Pre-PT/OT Club** to learn more about pre-OT opportunities.

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