

Occupational Therapy

What is occupational therapy? Occupational therapists help people with injuries retrain for work. They also help people with disabilities to perform daily tasks of life.

More details? For more detailed information, including salaries and job prospects, visit the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: www.bls.gov/Healthcare

What do I need to apply for admission to an OT school? There are several paths for entry:

- a) Associate degree (or general liberal arts courses for 2 years), followed by two years in OT bachelor's program;
- b) Four-years in OT bachelor's degree program; or
- c) Certificate or MS in OT after bachelor's in another area.
- d) Combined BS/MS program.

Does UWW have an OT program? No, UWW does not have an OT training program, and we do not offer a degree called 'pre-occupational therapy'. You could study the bare minimum of courses to apply to an OT school, but you probably would not get in – entry is competitive, and if you did not get in at that point, you also would not have a college degree, or a back-up plan.

Can UWW help me prepare for an accredited OT school? Absolutely! We offer all the courses required for entry into an OT program, which fit well with requirements for majors in biology, psychology, or sociology and the required and elective General Education courses.

1. **Undergraduate degree (BS or BA):** Most OT schools require students to earn a college or university degree (BS or BA; school may prefer one or other). Some graduate OT programs may have articulation agreements with undergraduate schools.
2. **Major and minor:** Typical fields of study include biology, psychology, and sociology.
3. **Coursework:** OT schools expect applicants to complete certain classes:

Requirement	Length/Credits (minimum)	UWW courses which meet the requirements
Statistics	1 course / 3 credits	BIO 303 OR PSYCH 215 OR MATH 230 OR MATH 231
General biology with lab	Min 1 year	BIO 141 AND BIO 142
Anatomy and physiology	1 course in each, or a two semester sequence	BIO 361 AND BIO 362
General physics (some schools)	1 year / 8-10 credits	PHYSCS 140 AND PHYSCS 141
Introductory psychology	1 sem	PSYCH 211
Lifespan development	Min 2 courses	PSYCH 331, PSYCH 332, EDFOUND 222, EDFOUND 478
Additional psychology, sociology, or anthropology courses may be recommended – check specific programs		PSYCH 345

4. **Exposure to occupational therapy:** Students are expected to have experience with what work is involved. This can be completed by job shadowing, observation, paid or volunteer work. The amount of time and type of setting(s) varies by school.

5. **Entrance exam:** Students may be required to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) at some schools.

What happens then? After your professional education, you would receive a masters (MS) degree in occupational therapy. You would also need to take the appropriate licensure exams. The school you attend will help you prepare.

Professional organization: Most occupational therapists belong to the American Occupational Therapy Association www.aota.org; this organization is an excellent source of information for everyone with questions about OT. To find accredited OT programs (undergraduate or Master's-level), visit:
<http://www.aota.org/education-careers/find-school/accredentrylevel/otmasters.aspx>

Training in this area:

Illinois

Chicago State University www.csu.edu/occupationaltherapy/
OT-professional entry-level master's and combined baccalaureate/master's Chicago, IL

Governors State University www.govst.edu/chhs/dot/mot/default.aspx?id=5932
OT - professional entry-level master's University Park, IL

Midwestern University www.midwestern.edu
OT - professional entry-level master's Downers Grove, IL

Rush University www.rushu.rush.edu/occuth/
OT - professional entry-level master's Chicago, IL

University of Illinois at Chicago www.ahs.uic.edu/ot/
OT - professional entry-level master's Chicago, IL

Iowa

St. Ambrose University www.sau.edu/ot/
OT - professional entry-level master's Davenport, IA

Minnesota

College of St. Scholastica <http://css.edu/Academics/School-of-Health-Sciences/Occupational-Therapy.html>
OT - professional entry-level master's and combined baccalaureate/master's Duluth, MN

St. Catherine University www.stkate.edu/academic/maot/
OT - professional entry-level master's and combined baccalaureate/master's St. Paul, MN

University of Minnesota <http://cahp.umn.edu/ot/>
OT - professional entry-level master's Minneapolis, MN

University of Minnesota, Rochester Campus www.ot.umn.edu
OT - professional entry-level master's Rochester, MN

Wisconsin

Concordia University Wisconsin www.cuw.edu/Programs/mot/index.html

OT - professional entry-level master's and combined baccalaureate/master's Mequon, WI

Mount Mary University www.mtmary.edu/ot.htm

OT - professional entry-level master's and combined baccalaureate/master's Milwaukee, WI

University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse www.uwlax.edu/ot/

OT - professional entry-level master's LaCrosse, WI

University of Wisconsin – Madison <http://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/ot/about>

OT - professional entry-level master's Madison, WI

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee www4.uwm.edu/chs/academics/occupational_therapy/

OT - professional entry-level master's and combined baccalaureate/master's Milwaukee, WI

Carroll University- Waukesha <https://www.carrollu.edu/academics/health-sciences/master-of-occupational-therapy>

OT – professional entry-level master's Waukesha, WI