

Basic Pre-Occupational Therapy Timeline (Regardless of Major)

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Prerequisites*</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Overview</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Two Semesters of a natural science with a lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anatomy & Physiology (highly recommended), Chemistry or Physics may also be accepted -Two Courses in the Social Sciences** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory Psychology 1061, Intro. to Sociology or Cultural Anthropology -Developmental Psychology-Life Span -Abnormal Psychology or Theories of Personality -Statistics (Social Science or Education based) -Computer Literacy is required <p>Exposure to OT: Volunteer or Work Experience***</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Third Year</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Summer – Take the GRE or MAT -Exposure to OT: Volunteer or Work Experience <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fourth Year</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Application Process</p> <p><u>Submit Application 11/1/09 through 3/15/10 to begin Program by 7/10.</u> The application must show plan in place to complete any outstanding pre-requisites.</p>
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***Prerequisites:** Some OT programs will not consider an applicant who has not maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA and will not accept any prerequisites where a grade of C- or less has been earned.

****Sociology:** There are several other courses that satisfy this requirement: Intro. to Soc., Soc. Of Race & Racism, Sexuality and Gender, Soc. of Health Care, Marriage and Family, Soc. Psychology, Cultural Anthropology, and Comparative Religions.

*****Exposure to Occupational Therapy** is an important part of your preparation/application. Do not over extend yourself at the expense of grades however.

Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies (*OPPHS*)

Pre-OT Advising

Advising offered by the Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies (*OPPHS*) supplements the academic advising (course registration, major requirements and graduation review) provided by the advising center in the student's primary college. Students planning to apply to occupational therapy programs must initiate a **portfolio** with the *OPPHS* as early as their freshman year. Scheduling an appointment with an advisor in the Temple University Occupational Therapy Department, 215 707-4836 is also recommended.

The Pre-OT Timeline / Application Process

Pre-OT students should map out an individualized academic timeline based on:

- the pre-OT course requirements for the occupational therapy programs to which they will eventually apply;
- courses required by their major; and University Gen Ed Requirements.
- Pre-requisite science courses should not be taken during summer sessions.

All Pre-OT students are required to:

- attend an orientation session during the Fall semester on the Temple Pre-Professional Health Evaluation Committee process as they consider or re-consider timeline possibilities.
- attend at least one workshop offered by the *OPPHS* during each semester
- schedule an advising appointment with *OPPHS* as questions arise.

Letters of Recommendation

Begin requesting letters of recommendation as you are completing classes in the sciences and have performed well in the class (A or B+). Provide your letter writers with a "Professional School Recommendation Form" available on the Health Advising web site. As you prepare to apply, an interview with a member of the Pre-Professional Health Evaluation Committee will be required before letters are released to health professional schools on your behalf.

Education and Occupation

Selecting an undergraduate major: Examples of what students have majored in at the undergraduate level include: biology, kinesiology, psychology, sociology, anthropology, liberal arts, and anatomy. It is important that you contact the educational programs to which you are interested in applying and make sure you have taken the necessary prerequisites for admission into their programs.

Education and training: A master's degree or higher in occupational therapy is the minimum requirement for entry into the field. In 2007, 124 master's degree programs offered entry-level education, 66 programs offered a combined bachelor's and master's degree, and 5 offered an entry-level doctoral degree. Most schools have full-time programs, although a growing number are offering weekend or part-time programs as well. Coursework in occupational therapy programs include the physical, biological, and behavioral sciences as well as the application of occupational therapy theory and skills. Programs also require the completion of 6 months of supervised fieldwork.

Additional Suggestions for Applicants: Admissions officers also look for volunteer experience in occupational therapy, involvement in school and community activities (e.g. sports, clubs, and social organizations), a history of leadership, letters of recommendation from occupational therapists or science teachers, and strong writing and interpersonal skills.

Nature of Work

- Occupational therapists help patients improve their ability to perform tasks in living and working environments. They work with individuals who suffer from a mentally, physically, developmentally, or emotionally disabling condition. The goal is to help clients have independent, productive, and satisfying lives.
- Occupational therapists held about 99,000 jobs in 2006. About 1 in 10 occupational therapists held more than one job. The largest number of jobs was in hospitals. Other major employers were offices of other health practitioners (including offices of occupational therapists), public and private educational services, and nursing care facilities.

Earnings

Median annual earnings of occupational therapists were \$60,470 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between \$50,450 and \$73,710. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$40,840, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$89,450.

Office Contact Information:

Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies (*OPPHS*); 1810 Liacouras Walk, Suite 100; 215 204-2513
healthadvising@temple.edu

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) website (www.aota.org)

Visit the *OPPHS* website for updates on workshops and other opportunities.

www.temple.edu/healthadvising

Information on these pages was taken from the AOTA website (www.aota.org).