

Occupational Therapy Profession Educational Planning Guide

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. Occupational therapists use treatments to develop, recover, or maintain the daily living and work skills of their patients. The therapist helps clients not only to improve their basic motor functions and reasoning abilities, but also to compensate for permanent loss of function. The goal is to help clients have independent, productive, and satisfying lives.

Occupational therapists help clients to perform all types of activities, from using a computer to caring for daily needs such as dressing, cooking, and eating. Physical exercises may be used to increase strength and dexterity, while other activities may be chosen to improve visual acuity or the ability to discern patterns. Occupational therapists also use computer programs to help clients improve decision-making, abstract-reasoning, problem-solving, and perceptual skills, as well as memory, sequencing, and coordination—all of which are important for independent living.

Occupational therapists must be licensed, requiring a master's degree in occupational therapy, 6 months of supervised fieldwork, and passing scores on national and State examinations. A bachelor's degree must be completed before a student can begin an Occupational Therapy master's degree program. There is no requirement that the bachelor's degree be in a specific major, but students should be sure to incorporate the required master's program course prerequisites into their undergraduate curriculum (see program specific information below).

Employment is expected to grow much faster than average and job opportunities should be good, especially for therapists treating the elderly. The median annual wage for occupational therapists was \$85,570 in May 2021. Employment of occupational therapists is projected to grow 17 percent from 2020 to 2030, much faster than the average for all occupations. Occupational therapy will continue to be an important part of treatment for people with various illnesses and disabilities, such as Alzheimer's disease, cerebral palsy, autism, or the loss of a limb. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor)

The following is a list of area schools that offer Master of Science degree programs in Occupational Therapy. Details of each program are summarized in the following pages.

**Elmhurst University
Governors State
Midwestern
University of Illinois Chicago
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee**

Elmhurst University

Fall admission

Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.)

Length of program: 24 month full-time program.

Website: <https://www.elmhurst.edu/academics/departments/communication-sciences-disorders/programs/master-occupational-therapy/>**M.S. Program Admission Requirements:**

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry (send official transcripts).
- Occupational Therapy Centralized Application System (OTCAS) application. Deadline: Nov 18.
- GPA of at least at 3.0
- Submission of GRE scores. A composite score of 300 for verbal and a writing score of 4 are preferred.
- Three letters of recommendation and a resume.
- Interview by invitation only.

A baccalaureate degree and completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of 'B-' or above (courses must be completed within 5 years of submission of application):

Prerequisite Courses:	CLC Sem. Hours
Social Science (Psych, Soc, Anth)	3
PSY 222 Lifespan Development or PSY 222 Child Growth & Dev	3
PSY 223 Abnormal Psychology	3
MTH 142 or 222 Statistics	3-4
BIO 244 and 245 Anatomy and Physiology I & II	8
Total	20-21

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Transfer Guides can be viewed online at <http://www.clcillinois.edu/transferinfo>

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

Summer admission

Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.)

Length of program: 2 ½ years; 102 credit hours required

Website: <https://www.govst.edu/MOT/>**M.S. Program Admission Requirements:**

- A baccalaureate degree (send official transcripts).
- Apply to Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy Schools (OTCAS). Application cycle is from October 1 - February 15.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 and minimum prerequisite courses GPA of 3.0
- GRE is a prerequisite
- 3 letters of recommendation: one from college professor; one from health care professional, preferably an occupational therapist and one additional.

A baccalaureate degree and completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of 'B' or above (check with a Governors State representative for CLC course equivalencies).

Prerequisite Courses:	CLC Sem. Hours
PSY 121 Intro to Psychology	3
PSY 223 Abnormal Psychology	3
Developmental Psychology or related sociology/anthropology	3
HIT Medical Terminology	3
BIO 244 and 245 Anatomy and Physiology I & II	8
Orientation to Occupational Therapy (2 credits)	
Total	20+

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MIDWESTERN

Fall admission: class size 50

O.T.D. Entry-Level Doctoral Program in Downers Grove, IL (replaces the Masters in Occupational Therapy)

Length of O.T.D. program: Continuous full-time program for 33 months (quarter system).

Website:

<https://www.midwestern.edu/academics/degrees-and-programs/doctor-of-occupational-therapy-il.xml>

O.T.D. Program Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree completed by time of entry.
- GPA of at least at 3.0 (average admitted GPA is 3.4)
- Apply to Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy Schools (OTCAS). Submit applications to OTCAS with all required materials by June 10, 2022 (will post new cycle when available-check website for more details).
- GRE scores are not required.
- Complete interview process (by invitation only).
- Completed first aid course within three years prior to enrollment.
- CPR Level C/Health Care Provider or Basic Life Support.
- Reflect a people/service orientation through community service or extracurricular activities.
- Pass a criminal background check.

A baccalaureate degree and completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or above (grades of C- are not accepted):

Prerequisite Courses:	CLC Sem. Hours
Social and Behavioral Science	3
PSY 220 Lifespan Development	3
PSY 223 Abnormal Psychology	3
MTH 142 or 222 Statistics	3-4
BIO 244 and 245 Anatomy and Physiology I & II (must be completed within the last 5 years); lab with cadaver experience is highly recommended	8
Recommended: PSY 222 and a sociology or psychology of aging	
Recommended: courses in the sciences and mathematics including chemistry, physiology, physics, and biology	
Recommended: English composition, oral communication, problem-solving behavior, logic, and ethical theories	
Total	20+

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

UIC is transitioning to an entry-level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program in Fall 2022.

Website: <https://ahs.uic.edu/occupational-therapy/admissions-and-programs/ms-in-occupational-therapy/>

Entry-level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program

Applications for Fall 2023 are due Dec.1, 11 p.m.

- Occupational Therapy Centralized Application System (OTCAS) application and application fee.
- Transcripts: transcripts must be submitted to OTCAS by Dec. 1 or applications will not be considered complete.
- Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (B average) for all coursework
- Personal statement and UIC-specific personal statement
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required for all applicants.

Prerequisite Courses:	CLC Sem. Hours
PSY 222 Child Growth & Development	3
PSY 223 Abnormal Psychology	3
PSY 220 Lifespan Development	3
Psychology/ sociology/anthropology course	3
HIT Medical Terminology (recommended, not required)	3
BIO 244 and 245 Anatomy and Physiology I & II	8
MTH 142 or 222	3-4
Total	26+

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MILWAUKEE

Fall admission: class size 32

M.S. in Occupational Therapy Program - 69 semester hours in 28 months. The curriculum includes six months of full-time field work which can be local or national (based on a student's needs and preferences).

Website: <https://uwm.edu/healthsciences/academics/masters-occupational-therapy/>

Following are important timelines for the OTCAS application cycle (see OTCAS for specific dates).

Mid July: OTCAS applications cycle opens (see OTCAS for specific dates).

Mid January (December 1 if international): Deadline for submission of all application material to OTCAS (see OTCAS for specific dates).

Once recommended for acceptance to UWM's MS in Occupational Therapy Program, students need to apply to and be accepted by UWM's Graduate School. However, students may apply to UWM's Graduate School at any time prior to being recommended for acceptance to the OT Program.

Admission Requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree (send official transcripts).
- Apply to Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy Schools (OTCAS). Once recommended by OTCAS, apply to UWM graduate school.
- GPA of at least 3.0, based on all transfer courses taken including courses that have been repeated
- A reasons statement.
- Letters of recommendation.
- Submission of GRE scores taken within the last 5 years.

A baccalaureate degree and completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of 'C' or above (check with a UWM advisor for CLC course equivalencies)

Prerequisite Courses:	CLC Sem. Hours
PSY 121 Intro to Psychology	3
PSY 220 Lifespan Development	3
BIO 244 and 245 Anatomy and Physiology I & II	8
MTH 142 or 222 Statistics	3-4
Natural Science with lab in Physics, Biology, or Chemistry	4
Total	21-22

This transfer guide is designed to assist students with their academic planning. Every effort is made to maintain accurate information; however, this information is subject to frequent change. Students should contact the member institution to keep informed of changes, as final responsibility for verifying information rests with the student.

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