

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Occupational therapists help patients improve their quality of life following either physical or mental illness through rehabilitation. They also work with patients who suffer mental and physical illnesses throughout life, from the time of birth. They help their client's development skills such as motor, social, persona, academic, and vocational pursuits.

CAREER DESCRIPTION*

- » National median salary: \$96,370
- » National projected career growth: 11%
- » Many work in occupational therapy offices or hospitals, others work in schools and nursing homes
- » Treat injured, ill, or disabled patients
- » Evaluate patient's home and/or workplace on the basis of their health needs and educate their family/employer regarding accommodations

TYPICAL EDUCATION**

- » Years of School (including undergraduate): 6-8
- » Average Entering GPA: 3.2
- » Typical-entry level education: Bachelor's Degree
- » GRE may be required for some schools

NEARBY SCHOOLS

- » University of Nebraska Medical Center (Doctoral Degree)
- » College of Saint Mary (Doctoral Degree)
- » Creighton University (Doctoral Degree)
- » Nebraska Methodist College (Master's)
- » Colorado State University
- » University of Missouri

COMPETITIVE STUDENTS ALWAYS...

- » Maintain a competitive academic record
- » Gain hands on experience though volunteerism or work
- » Shadow professionals in the field

WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL SAY

“

My vision that with my OTD, I will have the potential to broaden my personal scope of practice to include more leadership, research, and education opportunities.

-Dan Gibbons, OT

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The best part about being an occupational therapist is working with people who tell us about the value added to their lives.

-Margaret Spencer, OT

WORDS FROM SUCCESSFUL O.T. STUDENTS

“

What did your education in OT school look like?

My education consisted of 16-19 credit hours per semester, including 8.5 credit hours over the summer. I followed the traditional route, in-person lectures and labs every day, except Fridays. Fridays either consisted of volunteer work, extra lectures, study group sessions, and sometimes mandatory events related to the OT field. I took the typical time, 3 years to graduate."

-Creighton University Graduate

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*Data and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Data and information from UNMC

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Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

University of Nebraska Medical Center	College of Saint Mary
Creighton University	Nebraska Methodist College
Colorado State University	University of Missouri

*Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.

*Most schools prefer science classes to be taken in-person versus online.

UNMC's Prerequisites

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

Natural Sciences (minimum credits: 12)			
Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites
BIOL 2740 Human Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab	4	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2840 Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab	4	F, S, M	BIOL 2740
OR			
BMCH 2400 Human Physiology & Anatomy I & Lab	4	F, S	
BMCH 2500 Human Physiology & Anatomy II & Lab	4	F, S	BMCH 2400
AND 4 credit hours of one of the following:			
BMCH 4630 Biomechanics	3	F, S	BMCH 2400 or BIOL 2740 AND PHYS 1110 & 1154 OR MATH 1950
KINS 2430 Foundations in Kinesiology	3	F, S	
BIOL 1020 Principles of Biology & Lab	4	F, S	ENGL 1150 by placement
CHEM 1140 & 1144 Fund of College Chemistry & Lab	5	F, S	MATH 1300 or 1320
PHYS 1050 & 1054 Introduction to Physics & Lab	5	F, S	High School Algebra

Statistics (minimum credits: 3)			
PSYC 3130 Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT 1530
BIOL 2020 Statistics for Life and Environ. Science	3	F, S	MATH 1120, 1130, 1300, or 1320
SOC 2130 Social Statistics	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1300, 1320, or STAT 1530
STAT 1530 Elementary Statistics	3	F, S	ACT 19 or ALEKS 4
STAT 3000 Statistical Methods I	3	F, S	MATH 1300 or 1320

*Other statistics courses can fulfill the requirement as well but should be approved by an admissions advisor.

English Composition (minimum credits: 6)			
ENGL 1150 English Composition I	3	F, S, M	AP Score 3, ACT 14-26, HS GPA 2.3+
ENGL 1160 English Composition II	3	F, S, M	AP Score 4, ENGL 1140 or 1150, or ACT 27+ or Reading or English ACT score of 29+

*Advanced writing composition courses may be substituted if proficiency is established

Psychology (minimum credits: 9)			
PSYC 1010 Introduction to Psychology	3	F, S, M	
PSYC 2500 Lifespan Psychology	3	F, S, M	PSYC 1010
PSYC 4440 Abnormal Psychology	3	F, S, M	PSYC 1010

Humanities/Social Sciences (minimum credits: 6)			
Choose from courses in Art History or Appreciation, Theatre, Community Health, Religion*, Philosophy*, Ethics*, Women's & Gender Studies, Literature, Sociology*, Social Work, Anthropology*, Gerontology, Human Geography, and Criminal Justice			

*Courses required for other OT programs

See full list of UNO Humanities here: <https://www.unomaha.edu/general-education/approved-courses/humanities-and-fine-arts.php>

See a full list of UNO Social Sciences here: <https://www.unomaha.edu/general-education/approved-courses/social-sciences.php>

Medical Terminology (choose one)			
BIOL 1160 Terminology of Human Health & Disease	2	F, S	
HEKI 2000 Medical Terminology	1	F, S, M	

Other Recommended Courses			
Research Methods	3		
NEUR 1520 Introduction to Neuroscience I	3	F, S, M	High School Biology and Chemistry

