

# 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 clients develop skills such as: motor, social, personal, academic, and vocational pursuits.

## CAREER DESCRIPTION\*

- » National average salary: \$86,280
- » National projected career growth: 17%
- » 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 cost: \$54,644
- » Average entering GPA: 3.2

## NEARBY SCHOOLS

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

## COMPETITIVE APPLICANTS ALWAYS....

- » Earn a Bachelor's Degree
- » Gain hands-on experience through volunteer or work
- » Shadow professionals in the field
- » Maintain a competitive GPA

## WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONALS 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

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

**How did you decide this was the right path for you?**

I spent lots of time shadowing different healthcare professions. I knew I liked science and I knew that I didn't want to be a researcher or stereotypical scientist for the rest of my life, so I started to look into healthcare."

-Nebraska Methodist College Graduate

**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

\*Data and information from Bureau of Labor Statistics.

\*\*Data and information from UNMC.

Last update: 10.2021

Click links for requirements from the schools listed below:

<a href="#">UNMC</a>	<a href="#">College of Saint Mary</a>	<a href="#">Nebraska Methodist College</a>
<a href="#">Creighton University</a>	<a href="#">Rockhurst University</a>	<a href="#">University of Missouri</a>
<a href="#">Colorado State University</a>		

UNMC's Prerequisites

F=Fall, S=Spring, M=Summer

**Natural Sciences (min. credits: 12)**

Course	Credits	Offered	Prerequisites
BIOL 2740 – Human Physiology & Anatomy I	4	F, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2840 – Human Physiology & Anatomy II	4	S, M	BIOL 2740
OR			
BMCH 2400 - Human Physiology & Anatomy I	4	F, S	High school Biology and Chemistry
BMCH 2500 - Human Physiology & Anatomy II	4	F, S, M	BMCH 2400
<b>AND</b> 4 credit hours of one of the following:			
BMCH 4630- Biomechanics	3	F, S	BMCH 2400 or BIOL 2740; PHYS 1110 and PHYS 1154 OR Math 1950
KINS 2430- Foundations in Kinesiology	3	F, S	
BIOL 1020- Principles of Biology	4	F, S	ENGL 1150 Placement or ACT English sub-score of 20
CHEM 1140 & 1144-Fundamentals of College Chemistry & Lab	5	F, S	MATH 1220 or ACT sub-score of 23 (within last 2 years)
PHYS 1050 & 1054- Introduction to Physics & Lab	5	F, S	High school Algebra

**Statistics (min. credits: 3)**

PSYC 3130 – Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1220, 1310 or 1530
SOC 2130 – Social Statistics	3	F, S, M	MATH 1120, 1130, 1220, 1310 or 1530
STAT 3000 – Statistical Methods I	3	F, S, M	MATH 1310 OR 1220

*Additional statistics courses are also permissible.*

**English Composition/Writing (min. credits: 3)**

ENGL 1150 or 1154 – English Composition I	3	F, S, M	AP score of 3 or by EPPE exam
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*Advanced writing composition courses may be substituted if proficiency is established by the English Placement Proficiency Exam.*

**Psychology (min. credits: 9)**

PSYC 1010 – Introduction to Psychology	3	F, S, M	
PSYC 4440 – Abnormal Psychology	3	F, S, M	PSYC 1010
PSYC 2500 – Life Span Psychology	3	F, S, M	PSYC 1010

**Humanities/Social Sciences (min. credits: 6)**

Choose from courses in Art History, Art Appreciation, Theatre, 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)**

HEKI 2000 - Medical Terminology	1	F, S, M	
BIOL 1160 – Medical Terminology	2	F, S, M	

**Other Recommended Courses**

SOC 3510/ CRCJ 2510- Research Methods	3	F, S, M	SOC 1010/ CRCJ 1010
NEUR 1520 – Intro to Neuroscience I	3	F, S, M	High school Biology and Chemistry
CMST 1110 – Public Speaking	3	F, S, M	