

PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADVISING SHEET

This sheet is designed to give a typical pre-occupational therapy student a general understanding of the minimum course work generally required for acceptance to of occupational therapy schools. This document may not be equally suitable for all students and should be used solely as an initial guide since specific pre-requisite course requirements vary between occupational therapy schools. This variation can include how these schools view credit awarded for AP/IB credit and courses taken online, as well as the types of courses and number of credit hours required in each subject. ***Therefore, students are responsible for checking the specific admission prerequisites for each occupational therapy school to which they apply.***

Typical Occupational Therapy School Prerequisite Courses

Psychological Inquiry (SW250-PS)

Lifespan Developmental Psychology (PS320)

Abnormal Psychology (PS441)

Understanding Society (SW200-SO) **or** Being Human (anthropology) (SW215-AN)

Elementary Statistics (MA162)*

General Chemistry through CH106 (needed as prerequisite for Human A&P)

Biology (needed as prerequisite for Human A&P): either BI105 or both BI210 and BI220**

Human Anatomy and Physiology 1 & 2 with lab (BSHS334/335)

Medical Terminology (BSHS215)

*Students should check with their schools of interest to determine if statistics courses offered within a major satisfy statistics requirements.

**Both BI105 and BI220 serve as prerequisites for Human Anatomy and Physiology. While many OT programs do not require two terms of biology, BI220 requires completion of BI210.

Pre-professional advising:

Pre-occupational therapy students should contact the Engaged Learning Center (formerly known as CHASE) program coordinator to ensure that they are included on the pre-OT email listserv. Pre-OT students are also encouraged to find more details on Butler's pre-health website at <https://www.butler.edu/academic-services/pre-health-advising/areas-of-interest/pre-occupational-therapy/>.

Occupational Therapy is a health and rehabilitation profession. OTs work with people of all ages from infants to elderly to help them lead independent and productive lives due to physical, emotional or social problems. They help people use their work, self-care, and leisure activities to increase independence, enhance development, and prevent disability. They are very different from physical therapists that focus on restoring physical function to the body. Students interested in OT as career typically major in psychology, anthropology, biology or other majors as long as the prerequisites for entry into an OT program are met. Licensed practicing OT's must have a master's degree. For more information on Occupational Therapy visit the website of The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) at <http://www.aota.org/>.

Applying to Occupational Therapy School: A majority of occupational therapy schools in the United States use a common application service, OTCAS. For more details, please consult the Butler pre-health website at <https://www.butler.edu/pre-health-advising/pre-occupational-therapy>

Graduate Record Exam (GRE): Many, but not all, Occupational Therapy programs require an applicant to take the [Graduate Record Exam](#) (GRE) general test. This exam is usually taken during the spring semester of the junior year.

Letters of Recommendation: Identify at least one science professor and at least one non-science professor that might be willing to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf

Personal statement: A personal statement is a well thought out explanation of why occupational therapy is right for you based on the experiences that have led you to this conclusion. Experiences from your life, work, research, or shadowing that are pertinent to explaining your call to occupational therapy need to be included as part of this statement. Journaling is a convenient way of keeping track of formative experiences and their impact on you as they occur.

Application timeline: Applications are submitted approximately one year prior to entrance into occupational therapy school. Applications are built within and submitted to schools through the Occupational Therapy Central Application Service (OTCAS). The first day applications are received by OT schools is generally the first business day in July.

Pre-health Advising:

Contact: Should you have more questions, please visit the ELC office (JH105) or request to meet with one of the two current faculty pre-health advisors (<https://www.butler.edu/pre-health-advising/advisors>). The advisors are happy and excited to work with you to help ensure you become the best candidate possible for professional school.

Sophomore review: In the spring semester of the sophomore year, each pre-OT student will meet with one of the pre-health advisors for a review of their preparation to date. The student's coursework, overall GPA, volunteering and shadowing experiences, and other extra-curricular activities will be discussed.

Programing: Our programming goal is to provide general information and advice to students, while also providing individualized advising sessions. Programing for pre-occupational therapy and pre-health professional students starts the first-week students are on campus and extends through their time at Butler and beyond. First-year programming includes an introduction of the advisors and what they do, along with information on what students can do to start building a competitive application. Second-year programming includes our Networking Night with local health professionals, which can lead to shadowing and other opportunities. Our third year programming focuses on helping students understand the application process and timeline. We support alumni up to five years after graduating from Butler.