

## Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.)

<b>Degree</b>	<p>Master's level: MOT, M.S., or M.A.</p> <p>Doctoral level: OTD or DrOT</p> <p>"Occupational therapists help people with physical, emotional, or other challenges fully participate in the job of living. Disease, injury, depression, or developmental problems can make it difficult for people to do everyday tasks or be active and independent. Occupational therapists make it possible for people to achieve independence and to enjoy life to its fullest. OTs work with a variety of people, from newborns to the very old, in a variety of setting (schools, hospitals, homes, community centers, rehabilitation centers, businesses, and nursing homes)." (AOTA, 2010)</p> <p>There also are doctoral programs in OT that allow for additional education and clinical specialization.</p>
<b>Prerequisite Courses</b>	<p>The following are UF courses required for UF's OT program. Other requirements vary from school to school, so it is your responsibility to check requirements of individual programs:</p> <p><b>General Biology:</b> BSC2010 &amp; BSC2010L (BSC2005 &amp; BSC12005L may also be accepted)</p> <p><b>Human Physiology:</b> APK2105C</p> <p><b>Statistics:</b> STA2023</p> <p><b>Psychology:</b> PSY2012 and CLP3144</p> <p><b>Health and Medical Terminology:</b> HSC3537</p> <p><b>Oral Communications:</b> 3 credits (SPC2608)</p> <p><b>Human Anatomy</b> APK2100C</p>

	<p><b>Sociology or Anthropology</b> 3 credits (examples: ANT2000 or SYG2000)</p> <p><b>Recommended:</b></p> <p><b>English:</b> Two semesters of any English department course. Examples are ENC1101, ENC1102, ENC3254, LIT2110)</p> <p><b>Human Growth and Development:</b> EDF3110</p> <p><b>Statistics 2:</b> STA3024</p>
<p><b>Major</b></p>	<p>You may choose ANY major and go on to OT school.</p> <p>OT schools do not have a preference for any particular major. Choose a major based on your own personal interests and strengths. It doesn't need to be a science major; majors in the social sciences or humanities are just fine as long as you take the prerequisite courses. We recommend that non-science majors take a few additional science courses beyond the prerequisites.</p>
<p><b>Application Services</b></p>	<p><b>OTCAS:</b> Occupational Therapist Centralized Application Service</p> <p>Note: Some programs including UF do not participate in OTCAS</p>
<p><b>Admissions Test</b></p>	<p>GRE General Test: Graduate Record Exam</p> <p>The GRE is comprised of the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Verbal Reasoning</li> <li>-Quantitative Reasoning</li> </ul>

	-Analytical Writing
<b>Timing of Application</b>	Application deadlines vary from school to school. Most are due in the early Spring of the year you will matriculate. Some schools may participate in an early decision option; see each school's website for information.
<b>Reference Guide for School Selection</b>	You will find links to all the occupational therapy schools in the United States, with their specific requirements and other valuable information, at the <b>American Occupational Therapy Association</b> website. You can also see school websites for specific admission information.
<b>Number of schools to apply to</b>	Most students apply to 3-5 schools.  For guidance on choosing schools, watch our workshop on Choosing Schools, use the references above, and visit individual school websites.
<b>Letters of Recommendation</b>	We recommend 3-4 individual letters for most programs (this varies by school, check individual school requirements):  -Two character letters (must be from a non-relative; one letter from a practicing Occupational Therapist whom you have worked with is recommended)  -One to two letters from professors who have taught you in a lecture course
<b>Personal Attributes and</b>	Many OT programs require a minimum number of OT observation hours in a variety of OT settings. Please see individual program websites for requirements. In addition to OT observation, students should engage in extracurricular activities that

<b>Experiences</b>	develop and demonstrate the personal attributes that are valued in occupational therapists. Students are encouraged to participate in meaningful health-related volunteering, community service, shadowing, research, and leadership experiences that will help them gain an understanding of the profession and their future patients. Students should be able to demonstrate strong interpersonal and communication skills. See our Prepare section to learn more.
<b>Florida Programs</b>	<p>The programs in Florida are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Barry University</b></li> <li>• <b>Florida A&amp;M University</b></li> <li>• <b>Florida Gulf Coast University</b></li> <li>• <b>Florida International University</b></li> <li>• <b>Nova Southeastern University</b></li> <li>• <b>University of Florida</b></li> <li>• <b>University of St. Augustine</b></li> </ul>
<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>American Occupational Therapy Association</b></li> <li>• <b>Occupational Therapist Centralized Application Service (OTCAS)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Suggested Timelines</b>	<p>Sample timeline for pre-OT students.</p>

**Comment [g1]:** Link to handout