Occupational Therapy

WHAT? Occupational therapists (OTs) assist patients with mentally, physically, developmentally or emotionally disabling conditions to develop, recover or maintain daily living and work skills. The type of disability defines the treatment administered. Disabilities can result from mental illness, congenital defects, physical injury or debilitating illness. Some OTs specialize in certain types of treatment or certain populations (i.e., geriatric). OTs focus on fine motor skills, with a greater focus on psychosocial issues than physical therapy, which focuses on large motor skills. Their goal is to help clients have independent, productive, and satisfying lives. They may work in schools, mental health settings, large rehabilitation centers, or hospitals. In some cases, the OTs are taking on supervisory roles when they work with occupational therapy assistants.

Employment of OTs is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2006 due to the demand for rehabilitation and long-term care services. OTs in Texas average $81,000 in 2010, but salary can vary by location. In 2010, the majority of Texas OTs were working full-time in an hospital had an average salary of $73,000. On average, the OT works a 40-hour week, with about one-third of all OTs working part-time.

HOW? Currently there are six entry-level OT programs in Texas, all offer a master’s degree. All programs require a bachelor's degree except for Texas Tech. Upon completion of the OT program, students sit for a national certification exam which is valid in most states, including Texas (licensing is done state by state).

Selection Criteria: Selection criteria varies between schools and programs. Grades Minimum GPA required for application varies between 2.8 and 3.25. Overall, science and behavioral grades are considered. Students with higher GPAs have a distinct advantage. Admissions test Some schools require an admissions test to identify qualified applicants, such as the GRE for the master’s programs. Interview Schools conduct interviews of applicants to determine their commitment to the profession, their communication skills and their composure. Writing sample Some schools will also assess a student’s writing ability. Letters of evaluation Some schools require letters of recommendation or evaluation with the application. Experience Some schools require a minimum number of hours of volunteer, observation, or work experience. The number of applicants will increase, so students are advised to contact schools of interest and be certain of program prerequisites and course suitability.
# Occupational Therapy Prerequisites

All prerequisites and information are subject to change at any time and without notice. It is the responsibility of the applicant to remain up-to-date on all requirements.

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### Notes

- **OTCAS**
  - **July 1-Oct 15**
  - GRE-1994
  - 3 ltrs 1 OT
  - 20 hrs documented prior to app
  - Essay on site
  - Grad spring-no summer classes prior to fall start
  - A&P by application

- **OTCAS and RGV**
  - OTCAS
  - July 19-Oct 14
  - No GRE
  - 2 letters
  - 40 hrs req, documented
  - Degree req’d
  - Must grad by fall for a Summer start
  - Preregs by app (Feb 1)
  - OTCAS
  - July 19-Nov 30
  - GRE
  - 3 ltrs 1 OT
  - 2 Apps, grad school and program
  - No more than 2 outstanding pre-reqs at application

- Psyc 2314 at a junior college and it requires Psyc 107 or general psychology

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