

PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Introduction

Students interested in a career in Occupational Therapy may pursue any major along with completing specific prerequisites. Occupational Therapy schools requirements typically vary from a minimum of 60 credit hours to a bachelors degree being completed prior to enrolling in the program. Students may pursue either a masters or doctoral degree in Occupational Therapy. We encourage students to consider applying to doctoral level OT programs as the field is increasingly shifting to require doctoral skills/degrees. Students must gain a thorough understanding of the profession through a range of shadowing experiences. The [Canisius Institute for Autism Research \(https://www.canisius.edu/academics/our-schools/school-education-human-services/institute-autism-research/\)](https://www.canisius.edu/academics/our-schools/school-education-human-services/institute-autism-research/) provides excellent opportunities for students. Some programs may require a competitive score on the GRE. Students should work with the Pre-Health Advisor to select appropriate coursework based on their schools of interest and plan appropriate co-curricular experiences to build a high quality application. In addition to the information in this section, please check the general information at the pre-medical and pre-health section of the catalog (<http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/pre-professional-programs/pre-medical-pre-health-professions/>).

Guaranteed Admission Program

Canisius students in the Sports and Exercise Health Care major meeting all requirements are guaranteed admissions to the D'Youville University Master of Occupational Therapy (OT) program. Contact the Pre-Medical Center for specific requirements for this program.

Recommended Pre-Occupational Therapy Courses

Academic admission requirements vary by school, but the following courses typically prepare a student to apply to multiple programs:

Anatomy & Physiology

At least one year of anatomy/physiology with laboratory:

Code	Title	Credits
Option 1:		
BIO 114 & 114L	Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Human Anatomy and Physiology I Laboratory	4
BIO 115 & 115L	Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Human Anatomy and Physiology II Laboratory	4
Option 2:		
BIO 324 & 324L	Human Anatomy and Human Anatomy Lab	4
BIO 340 & 340L	Physiology and Physiology Laboratory	4

Mathematics

One semester of statistics:

Code	Title	Credits
PSY 201	Basic Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	3
		or
		4

or MAT 131	Statistics for Social Sciences
or MAT 141	Inferential Statistics and Computers for Science
or KIN 398	Statistics and Research Design

Psychology

Psychology requirements vary at different schools. Students work with the Pre-Health Advisor to plan for any additional courses.

Note that completing these four courses, along with PSY 201 and PSY 202 is an excellent way to earn a minor in Psychology while satisfying OT psychology prerequisites for a broad range of schools.

Code	Title	Credits
Select one of the following:		
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology I	3
or PSY 102	Introduction to Psychology II	

Take both of the following:

PSY 203	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	3
PSY 303	Psychopathology	3

Sociology

One course in Sociology:

Code	Title	Credits
SOC 110	Introduction to Sociology	3
or SOC 111	Contemporary Social Problems	

Medical Terminology

One course in medical terminology is required by some schools:

Code	Title	Credits
HRP 111	Medical Terminology	1

Additional Pre-Occupational Therapy Courses

Some schools recommend additional coursework from the Sciences such as General Biology and/or General Chemistry. Please work with the Pre-Health Advisor to determine the best option for your future pathway.

Elective Courses

HRP 101 allows students to explore different health professions.

HRP 111 introduces students to medical terminology.

HRP 201 and HRP 202 allow students to explore areas of medicine in more depth.

HRP 498 is an internship in medical informatics. A medical scribe internship is also available.

HRP 498A is a medical service learning trip.