

Occupational Therapists (OTs) help people improve their ability to perform tasks in their daily living and working environments. They work with individuals across the lifespan who have mental, physical, developmental, and emotional challenges to help them to learn, recover, or maintain necessary skills. They help patients not only improve their basic motor functions and reasoning abilities, but also compensate for permanent loss of function. OTs can work with both children and adults, and in a variety of settings. Their goal is to help individuals have independent, meaningful, and satisfying lives.

Degree

A master's degree is the minimum educational requirement for licensure; there are also doctoral OT programs. Students may directly enter a combined Bachelor/Master Degree program, OR they may obtain a bachelor's degree in a different discipline and then apply to an OT graduate program. It is very important to research colleges, the types of programs they offer, and prerequisites required. To obtain a license, applicants must graduate from an accredited educational program and pass a national certification examination for occupational therapists administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

Currently licensed OTs can choose to specialize by completing post-graduate program.

Most MCC students are advised to transfer to a 4-year college/university for a bachelor's degree, and then apply to OT masters and/or doctoral programs.

Criteria of Importance for Acceptance May Include

- Grade Point Average
- Recent work or volunteer experience in a direct patient care environment (may be required to be under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist)
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores
- Personal interview
- Letters of recommendation

Typical Minimum Prerequisite Courses

General Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Medical Terminology, Psychology, Philosophy, Statistics, Physics, Anthropology or Sociology.

Examples of MCC Courses Include

- BIO 155 – Intro to Cell & Molecular Biology
- BIO 156 – Intro to Organismal Bio & Ecology
- BIO 144 & 145 - Anatomy & Physiology I & II
- PSY 101 – Intro to Psychological Science
- PSY 212 – Developmental Psychology: Lifespan
- SOC 101 – Intro to Sociology
- PHL 101 or 103 – Intro to Philosophy or Ethics
- PSY 206 –Adult Psychopathology
- MTH 160 – Statistics I
- MTH 175 – Precalculus

Research each program to verify prerequisites and course transferability.

Colleges in NYS with a Program in Occupational Therapy

(These institutions offer Master's and/or Doctorate Degrees. Please research each to determine which are offered.)

- SUNY University at Buffalo
- SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
- SUNY Stony Brook University
- Stony Brook University - Southampton
- D'Youville University
- Russell Sage College
- Dominican University
- Hofstra University
- Clarkson University
- Le Moyne College
- Maria College
- Mercy College
- Utica University
- Nazareth University
- Long Island U – Brooklyn
- Columbia University
- Ithaca College
- Keuka College
- Iona University
- Pace University – Westchester Campus
- NY Institute of Technology
- Yeshiva University – Jack and Pearl Resnick Campus*
- St. Bonaventure University
- New York University
- Touro University

Additional Information

- [USDL, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Occupational Therapist](#)
- [The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.](#)
- [Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education \(ACOTE\)](#)

Note: While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.