Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapists (OTs) help people improve their ability to perform tasks in their daily living and working environments. They work with individuals who have mental, physical, developmental, and emotional disabilities. OTs help them to develop, recover, or maintain daily living and work skills. They help patients not only improve their basic motor functions and reasoning abilities, but also compensate for permanent loss of function. Their goal is to help individuals have independent, productive, and satisfying lives.

Degree: A master’s degree or higher is the minimum educational requirement for licensure. 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 Master’s 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).

Many MCC students are advised to transfer to a 4 year college for a bachelor’s degree and then apply to OT 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: Anatomy & Physiology, Medical Terminology, Psychology, Philosophy, Statistics, Physics, Anthropology or Sociology.

Examples of MCC courses include:

- BIO 144 & 145 - Anatomy & Physiology I & II
- PSY 101 – Intro to Psychological Science
- SOC 101 – Intro to Sociology
- PSY 212 – Developmental Psychology: Lifespan
- PHL 101 or 103 – Intro to Philosophy or Ethics
- PSY 206 – Abnormal Psychology
- MTH 160 – Statistics I

Research each program to verify prerequisites and course transferability.

Partial Listing of Colleges in NYS with a Program in Occupational Therapy:

- SUNY University at Buffalo
- LeMoyne College
- NY Institute of Technology
- D’Youville College
- Utica College
- SUNY Downstate
- Sage Colleges
- Nazareth College
- New York University
- Hofstra University
- Long Island U - Brooklyn
- Touro College
- SUNY Stony Brook University
- Columbia University
- Clarkson University
- Ithaca College

Additional Information:

USDL, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Occupational Therapist
The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

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.

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