

## WHAT IS AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST (OT)?

An Occupational Therapist is a healthcare provider who treats patients with injuries, illnesses, or disabilities through the therapeutic use of everyday activities. They help these patients develop, recover, and improve the skills needed for daily living and working.

### PREREQUISITES:

NOTE: EACH OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST SCHOOL ESTABLISHES ITS OWN SET OF PREREQUISITES. CHECK THE WEBSITES OF THE SCHOOLS THAT YOU ARE MOST INTERESTED IN ATTENDING TO OBTAIN A CURRENT LIST OF UNDERGRADUATE REQUIREMENTS.

<b>Listed below are the courses at the University of Dubuque that students must complete to meet St. Ambrose University's Occupational Therapy prerequisite course requirements for admission.</b>	
<b>Anatomy/Physiology (8 credits)</b>	BIO 211 (CHM 205 or equivalent is a prerequisite for this course.) BIO 212
<b>Math</b>	MATH 112 and MATH 230
<b>Medical Terminology (2 credits)</b>	BIO 150
<b>Lifespan (3 credits)</b>	PSY 119
<b>Research Methods</b>	PSY 333 (PSY 110 and PSY 230 are prerequisites for this course.)
<b>Ethics or Bio-Medical Ethics</b>	*PHL 212 Ethics and Contemporary Issues
<b>Social Science (300 level or above/3 Credits)</b>	May include upper-level Psychology, Sociology, courses.

### EXAM AND GPA:

**The Graduate Record Exam (GRE)** is a standardized examination that consists of four multiple-choice sections that cover basic mathematics and reading comprehension skills. The GRE is designed to measure general academic ability. Typically, students take the GRE about one calendar year prior to their intended date of matriculation to professional school. The GRE is a nationally standardized test, similar to the ACT and SAT. A GRE score is good for three years at most schools, so taking the test in the spring of junior year does not necessarily mean that you must enter your Occupational Therapy program right after college graduation. Average scores are:

**REVISED:** A combined score of 290 for most schools

**OLD:** 500 on Verbal and 500 on Quantitative (minimum 1000)

**Grade Point Average (GPA):** Minimum GPA requirements vary from program to program, but MOST programs have a minimum 3.0 GPA requirement. In addition, most programs require that all prerequisite courses must be passed with a "C" or better. They generally want to see competitive test scores and GPAs.

**TIMELINE:****Freshman Year:**

- Connect with a Health Professions Advisor or Faculty Member.
- Start taking basic sciences (See chart above).
- Think about possible majors (Study what you love).
- Begin getting involved with volunteer opportunities (campus and community).
- Start shadowing
- Join some student organizations.

**Sophomore Year:**

- Continue with next sequence of courses.
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities (shadowing, volunteer, etc).
- Begin to think about becoming an officer in your organizations.
- Begin research on professional schools, their requirements, and assess your competitiveness.
- Investigate GRE preparation options.
- Identify programs you are interested in.
- **BOTTOM LINE:** Keep working on the things you established your first year!!

**Junior Year:**

- Talk to Health Professions advisor or faculty member to narrow program options and assess competitiveness (Fall semester).
- Register for the GRE (Fall Semester).
- Study for GRE and take it (Spring/Summer).
- Identify 3-4 individuals to write letters of recommendation (Spring Semester).
- Complete Application (OTCAS) (Spring Semester-Summer).
- Schedule a mock interview with Career Services.
- Keep working on the things you have established thus far.

**Senior Year:**

- Submit Application(s) if you haven't already (Fall semester).
- Wait to be contacted for interviews from veterinary schools.
- Continue with activities and professional experiences/shadowing.
- Talk with an advisor about Plan B if necessary.
- Finish degree requirements and GRADUATE!

**RESOURCES:**

St. Ambrose University Occupational Therapy [Click Here](#)

Occupational Therapy Central Application Service (OTCAS) [Click Here](#)

GRE Information/Dates [Click Here](#)