

Pathway to Occupational Therapist

What does an Occupational Therapist do? How's the job outlook?

Occupational therapists treat injured, ill, or disabled patients through the therapeutic use of everyday activities. They help these patients develop, recover, improve, as well as maintain the skills needed for daily living and working.

Employment of occupational therapists is projected to grow 17 percent from 2020 to 2030, much faster than the average for all occupations. Occupational therapy will continue to be an important part of treatment for people with various illnesses and disabilities, such as Alzheimer's disease, cerebral palsy, autism, or the loss of a limb. The need for occupational therapists is expected to increase as the large baby-boom generation ages and people remain active later in life. Occupational therapists can help senior citizens maintain their independence by recommending home modifications and strategies that make daily activities easier. The annual mean wage for dentists in the Denver Metro area is approximately \$93,010. *



*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Occupational Therapists, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapists.htm>

How do I become an occupational therapist?

Occupational therapists need at least a master's degree in occupational therapy; some therapists have a doctoral degree. Occupational therapists must also be licensed. Admission to graduate programs in occupational therapy generally requires a bachelor's degree and specific coursework, including biology and physiology.

Master's programs usually take 2 to 3 years to complete; doctoral programs take about 3 and a half years. Both master's and doctoral programs require at least 24 weeks of supervised fieldwork, in which prospective occupational therapists gain clinical work experience. In addition, doctoral programs require a 16-week capstone experience.

All states require occupational therapists to be licensed. Licensing requirements vary by state, but all require candidates to pass the national examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Therapists must pass the NBCOT exam to use the title "Occupational Therapist, Registered" (OTR). They must also take continuing education classes to maintain certification.

Faculty Advisor who can guide you for this path are:

Dr. Clare Hays

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Admission Information for the CSU Occupational Therapy Doctorate (O.T.D.) Program:

1. A Bachelor's Degree (B.S. or B.A.) in any discipline.
2. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
3. Prerequisite coursework must be completed by matriculation; the minimum grade for each course is C.
4. Full consideration for departmental scholarships and fellowships will be given to applicants who have submitted their applications early.
5. Volunteer and/or work experience with people with disabilities (strongly recommended).

Application packets are available online. See the [CSU Department of Occupational Therapy](#) website for more information on application deadlines.

Course prerequisites required for those interested in pursuing the CSU O.T.D. program include:

Medical Terminology (ITP 1700) – Also available on-line at www.online.colostate.edu; 1 semester

Human Anatomy & Physiology I and II (BIO 2310/2320) – (pre-req is BIO 1080/1090); 2 semesters

Psychology of Human Development (PSY 2210) – (prereq is PSY 1001); 1 semester

Abnormal Psychology (PSY 3620) – (prereq is PSY 1001); 1 semester

Brain and Behavior (See CSU website for info) – BIO 4300 - Neurobiology is an acceptable substitute (pre-req is BIO 2310 and senior standing); 1 semester

Statistics (MTH 1210); 1 semester

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REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN BIOLOGY for 2020-2021 or future catalogs ONLY

A grade of "C-" or better is required for each BIO prefix course to count towards the major

Required Biology Courses for both the B.A. or the B.S. Degree

- BIO 1080-3 General Biology I3
- BIO 1090-1 General Biology Lab I1
- BIO 1081-3 General Biology II3
- BIO 1091-1 General Biology Lab II1

- BIO 3520-3 General Ecology3

Take ONE of these Genetics options:

- BIO 3600-4 General Genetics (no lab)4
- OR
- BIO 3610-4 Genetics: Principles & Analysis (has lab)4

Pick ONE of these options:

- Option 1: BIO 2100-5 General Botany
- OR
- Option 2: BIO 2400-5 General Microbiology
- OR
- Option 3: Both BIO 2310-4 and BIO 2320-4 (Anatomy & Physiology I & II) (You must take both semesters to get credit for this option)
- OR
- Option 4: Either BIO 3200-4 Invertebrate Zoology or BIO 3260-4 Vertebrate Zoology (If you wish to take both zoology courses, the other will count as an upper division elective)

Students are required to take a Senior Experience course:

| Fulfills Senior Experience Requirement | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4050-3 Advanced Cell & Molecular Biology <input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4230-3 Issues in Conservation Biology <input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4300-3 Neurobiology <input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4820-4 Developmental Biology <input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4850-3 Evolution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4510-4 Microbial Ecology <input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4540-4 Plant Ecology <input type="checkbox"/> BIO 4550-4 Animal Ecology |

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Elective Biology courses: Biology courses from 2000, 3000, and 4000 must be completed to bring the total of biology courses approved for the major to 40 credits. *At least 21 of these Biology credits must be from the 3000 or 4000 courses of the Department of Biology.*

Recommended Elective Courses from which to Choose:

- BIO 2310 – Anatomy & Physiology
- BIO 2320 – Anatomy & Physiology II
- BIO 3050 - Cell Biology
- BIO 3320 – Advanced Human Physiology
- BIO 3210 - Histology
- BIO 3350 - Immunology
- BIO 3351 – Immunology Lab

Total Credit Hours in Biology (minimum of 40) _____

Upper Division Biology Credit Hours (minimum of 21) _____

B.S. Non-Bio Course Requirements:

CHE 1800-4 Gen Chemistry I _____
CHE 1801-1 Gen Chemistry I Lab _____
CHE 1810-4 Gen Chemistry II _____
CHE 1811-1 Gen Chemistry II Lab _____

CHOOSE YOUR PATH:

CHE 3100-4 Organic Chemistry I _____
CHE 3120-1 Organic Chemistry I Lab _____
AND
CHE 3110- 3 Organic Chemistry II _____

~OR~

ºCHE 3090- 4 Survey of Organic Chem _____
CHE 3120-1 Organic Chemistry I Lab _____
AND
ºCHE 4310-4 Biochemistry _____

º **Note on CHE 3090 – Survey of Organic Chemistry** - this class is no longer being offered

º **Note on CHE 4310 – Biochemistry** – requires completion of both Organic Chemistry I and II

B.A. Non-Bio Courses Requirements:

*CHE 1100-4 Principles of Chem _____
CHE 2100-4 Intro to Org/Biochem _____

~OR~

CHE 1800-4 Gen Chemistry I _____
*CHE 1801-1 Gen Chemistry I Lab _____
CHE 1810-4 Gen Chemistry II _____
CHE 1811-1 Gen Chemistry II Lab _____

*To use CHE 1100 or 1800 for the Natural and Physical Sciences requirement, students must take the corresponding lab (CHE 1150 or CHE 1801, respectively).

Math Requirement:

Two Semesters of Math: _____

One Semester of Math: _____

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Choose from the following math courses:

MTH 1108-1109 (Stretch College Algebra) *, MTH 1110 (College Algebra), MTH 1111 and MTH 1101 (College Algebra with lab), MTH 1112 (College Algebra through Modeling), MTH 1115/1116 (College Algebra through Modeling with Lab), MTH 1120 (Trigonometry), MTH 1210 (Intro to Statistics), MTH 1410 (Calculus I)**

MTH 1108-1109 is a Stretch Course and only counts as ONE of the required math courses for the BIO BS.

Students planning to take Calculus must take MTH 1108-1109, MTH 1110, or MTH 1111

Additional Course Requirements (Specific to Occupational Therapy)

*** Students interested in an Occupational Therapy program will also need to take:
3 Semesters of Psychology and 1 Semester of Medical Terminology (ITP 1700) ***

Psychology Courses

PSY 1001– Introductory Psychology

AND

PSY 2210 - Psychology of Human Development

AND

PSY 3620 - Abnormal Psychology

Medical Terminology (ITP 1700)

General Studies Requirements (33 cr. total), please visit

<http://www.msudenver.edu/advising/facultystaff/generalstudiesrequirements/>

Total Credits (Minimum 120) _____

Total Upper Division Credits (Minimum 40 TOTAL) _____

What is your Minor? (required) _____