

PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences - Advising Center
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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

The objective of occupational therapy is to assist individuals who have physical, developmental, or mental impairments to independently perform tasks related to work, self-care, and leisure, or to adapt to their environment. The patient's impairment may be related to a stroke, developmental disabilities, or other disabling conditions. Therapists must be able to recognize the psycho-social impact of dysfunction and treatment and provide support to patient and family.

Portland State offers a strong pre-occupational therapy program whereby students complete their prerequisite coursework, earn a baccalaureate degree, and obtain extensive assistance with the occupational therapy school preparation and application process. PSU does not offer the professional program (which culminates in the M.O.T.). You must be accepted by a professional school, such as Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR., to complete the professional phase.

Pacific University Prerequisite Courses	Equivalent PSU Courses
Natural Sciences – minimum 18 quarter credits (12 semester credits)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Anatomy with lab • Human Physiology with lab • Physics OR Kinesiology course is recommended. <p>Note: Anatomy and physiology must be completed within the last seven years and all parts of the series should be taken at the same institution, if possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BI 101/104, 102/105, 103/106 (12) - General Biology w/ lab OR BI 251, 252, 253 (15) - Principles of Biology (not required by Pacific, but is a strongly recommended pre-req for BI 301-303) • BI 301, 302, 303 (12) - Human Anatomy & Physiology (credits cannot be older than 7 years) • Recommended: PH 201 (4) & PH 214 (1) - General Physics and General Physics Lab (note: MTH 111 and MTH 112 are recommended prerequisites for Physics) *OR* PHE 370 – Applied Kinesiology (note: recommended prerequisite of BI 301)
Social Science – minimum 18 quarter credits (12 semester credits)	
<p>Courses from minimally two (2) of the following areas: psychology, sociology, anthropology, politics, government, business, and economics. In these areas, include a life-span development course, and an abnormal psychology course.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSY 200 (4) - Psychology as a Natural Science • PSY 204 (4) - Psychology as a Social Science (recommended) – these are prerequisites for PSY 311 & 434 • PSY 311 (4) - Human Development (required) • PSY 434 (4) - Psychopathology (required) • Additional credits to reach 18 from PSY, SOC, PS, EC, HST, or ANTH. At least one course must be from a department other than PSY.
Expository Writing – minimum 4.5 quarter credits (3 semester credits)	
200 level course or above	<p>Choose two of the following: WR 222, 227, 323 Note: Pacific may accept University Studies courses to satisfy this requirement – submit course descriptions to Pacific for review.</p>

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Pacific University Prerequisite Courses	Equivalent PSU Courses
Research methods – minimum 3 quarter credits (2 semester credits)	
Courses from any of the following departments: psychology, sociology, or anthropology. Note: Must include a qualitative research component. Statistics will be accepted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAT 243 (4) - Introduction to Probability & Statistics (take the non-business version)
Humanities – minimum 9 quarter credits (6 semester credits)	
Courses from two (2) of the following areas: literature, religion, history, philosophy, ethics, and the history or appreciation of art, music, or theatre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 credits from two of the following departments: ENG, PHL, ARH, MUS, or TA (art, music & theater classes must focus on appreciation or history)
Medical terminology	
Complete sequence or course. May be taken "credit/no credit."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not offered at PSU – take at local community college

Completion of the preparatory courses does not guarantee acceptance into the Occupational Therapy program. Admission is limited and competitive. Most professional programs require that an **A, B, or C** be earned in all required preparatory courses, and most students accepted by professional schools have an average overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Additional Pacific University – Occupational Therapy Admission Requirements:

- Minimum number of credits in preparatory phase – 135
- Evidence of observation and understanding of occupational therapy services in rehabilitation, mental health, and public schools
- A required course in First Aid

Pacific University – Occupational Therapy Application Information:

- **Preferred Application: Early Dec (check website for preferred application deadline)**
- **Final Application: Mid January (check website for final application postmark deadline)**
- Length of professional phase (Master's program at Pacific) – 31 months
- Degree awarded – M.O.T.
- Program begins fall semester and enrollment in the professional program is limited to 26 students per class.
- The best way to ensure that Pacific will accept your courses is to complete a prerequisite worksheet (available at <http://www.pacificu.edu/ot/admission/prerequisiteworksheet.cfm>) and submit it to Pacific, along with a copy of your transcripts and course descriptions.

Tips & Recommendations:

- We encourage you to get in contact with the Occupational Therapy schools you will be applying to as early as possible. **SUBMIT FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER JANUARY 1ST.**
- **Periodically** and before the beginning of your last year at PSU, **check with the adviser** for recent changes, remaining requirements, and application procedures.
- Personally read the information/admission brochure of each of the professional programs to which you plan to apply.

Pacific University's School of Occupational Therapy Contact Information :

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