

Pre-Occupational Therapy Program CURRICULUM GUIDE SHEET

It is most important that you work closely with your advisor!

Occupational Therapy Programs in the State of Tennessee

Nashville, TN: Tennessee State University (www.tnstate.edu)

Nashville, TN: Belmont University (www.belmont.edu)

Memphis, TN: University of Tennessee Health Science Center (www.utmehi.edu)

Johnson City, TN: Milligan University (www.milligan.edu)

UTHSC in Memphis requires a minimum of 90 semester hours of coursework. Electives should be chosen to fulfill the minimum 90 hour semester requirement. Belmont, Milligan and TSU require a Bachelor's degree. Coursework should be chosen to satisfy a major and/or minor requirement. If you plan on applying to more than one program in the State of Tennessee, it is recommended you complete a Bachelor's degree.

Suggested Curriculum

1st Semester

Chemistry 1110/1111 (Note 1)	4 hrs
Biology 2010/2011 (Note 2)	4 hrs
English 1010	3 hrs
Mathematics 1710 (or 1730)	3-4 hrs
Psychology 1410	3 hrs

2nd Semester

Biology 2020/2021	4 hrs
English 1020	3 hrs
Humanities 2130	3 hrs
COMM 2200	3 hrs
Psychology 2300	3 hrs

3rd Semester

Physics 2010/2011 (Note 3)	4 hrs
Psychology 3230	3 hrs
Sociology 1010	3 hrs
English 2030 or 2020 or HUM 2610	3 hrs
History 2010	3 hrs

4th Semester

Psychology 3020	3 hrs
CSCI 1150 or INFS 2200	3 hrs
History 2020	3 hrs
Humanities/Fine Arts	3 hrs
*Electives or major course	3 hrs

5th and subsequent Semesters

Electives or Major/Minor coursework to satisfy OT program requirements 26 – 56 hrs

* **Additional requirements for UTHSC, Memphis: BIOL 1110/1111 and BIOL 1120/1121 (General Biology I and II); Social Science Elective (P S 1010, 2010, ECON 2410)**

* **Additional requirements for Milligan: PHIL 1030 (Intro to Philosophy) or PHIL 3150 (Ethics).**

Note 1. Students with a weak background in chemistry should take Chemistry 1010/1011 before taking Chemistry 1110/1111.

Note 2. Students with a weak background in Biology may want to take Biology 1030/1031 before taking Biology 2010/2011 & 2020/2021.

Note 3. Students with a weak background in physics may want to take Physics 1300 before taking Physics 2010.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THOSE PURSUING A PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CURRICULUM

Advisor: Go to DSB 241 and be assigned a pre-occupational therapy advisor even if you have another advisor for a four-year major. Maintain contact and see that OT advisor at least before registering each semester. Let your advisor know to which schools you wish to apply and consult with them about course selection and volunteer work. Let them know about your application process and whether it is successful or not.

What The Schools Are Looking For: OT schools are looking for four basic things: good grades (**at least a GPA of 3.0 to be competitive**) including good grades in the sciences, knowledge of OT as a career (volunteer work), maturity, and excellent interpersonal skills (recommendations and the interview). They also check to see that you meet all their requirements. At the time of application, the student should have completed certain prerequisites identified by a particular school.

Volunteer Work: Volunteer work with an occupational therapist is required by each school. Sometime after your first semester of course work, set up volunteer work. Experiences gained during volunteer work will enable the students to make sure occupational therapy is the proper career field for them and help them do better in their interview. Applicant's understanding of the profession will be considered in the writing sample and/or interview. Work should be obtained in 2 to 3 different types of patient care, such as a physical therapy/occupational therapy clinic, a hospital, a nursing home, and a home health service. The number of hours required vary according to the OT school, but 50- 100 volunteer hours is appropriate. The purpose is for you to learn as much as possible about the career of OT and about as many different types of patients as possible. Talk to the OT's and ask them about their career. Read up on OT. Become knowledgeable about the career and do everything possible to better prepare yourself for this career. Each applicant is expected to have thoroughly investigated the scope and profession of physical therapy. Also, develop a rapport with the physical therapists since some of the schools require evaluations or recommendations from them.

Preprofessional Advisory Committee: UT-Memphis requires an interview and recommendation by the MTSU Preprofessional Advisory Committee (see the coordinator in DSB 241 to make an appointment in the Fall Semester of your fourth year). The MTSU interview involves getting evaluations from your science professors. Get to know them so that they will be better able to evaluate you. Although required only by UT-Memphis, all students should schedule the interview as practice for the interview to Occupational Therapy School. Contact the coordinator in DSB 241 to schedule the MTSU interview (which includes obtaining recommendations from five science professors).

Professional School Interview: The interview is extremely important; it may count 25 - 40% or more. Prepare for the professional school interview. Read books on interview skills, practice interviewing (the Pre-Professional Advisory Committee can help here - - see the Coordinator in DSB 241 to set up an interview in the Fall Semester of your third year), etc. Know why you want to be a PT (more than just to "help people"). Dress appropriately. They are looking for maturity, goals, problem solving skills, critical thinking skills, interpersonal skills, knowledge of OT, and a well-rounded personality that interacts well with others.

Internet Information: Visit The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Internet site at :
<http://www.aota.org/>