

Pre-Health Information for  
**Occupational Therapy**



<p><b>Profession web sites:</b> <a href="http://www.aota.org">www.aota.org</a> (professional organization)</p>
<p><b>Application web site:</b> OT Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) at <a href="http://portal.otcas.org">http://portal.otcas.org</a> The OTCAS application site opens in July for the following year admission (i.e., July 2014 for enrollment in 2015).</p>
<p><b>Admission/Entrance exam:</b> Graduate Record Examination (GRE) at <a href="http://www.ets.org/gre">www.ets.org/gre</a>. Some programs may accept the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) administered through Pearson (<a href="http://www.pearsonassessments.com">www.pearsonassessments.com</a>)</p>
<p><b>Transcripts:</b> Official transcripts from <u>ALL</u> institutions attended, including Marquette University, must be sent directly from the institution to OTCAS. If you completed study abroad courses that are on a transcript issued by another university, official transcripts from that institution must also be sent to CASPA.</p>
<p><b>Course prerequisites:</b> Course prerequisites vary by program. Typical prerequisites include several psychology courses (introductory, development, and/or abnormal), biology, physics, statistics, anatomy, and physiology (or A&amp;P).</p>
<p><b>Observation hours/experience:</b> Most schools will specify a minimum number of hours or types of experience directly related to occupational therapy. Exceeding the minimum hours is an excellent way not only to learn about the profession, but also show your commitment for the profession. OTCAS requires you to enter the name of facility, street address of facility, name of the licensed occupational therapists that supervised your observation experiences, OT license number, state of OT license, OT phone number, type of experience (inpatient or outpatient, paid or volunteer), type of setting, status of experience (completed, planned or in progress), total number of hours and date range (start date/end date). It is much easier if you keep track of this information as you complete your hours than at the time of application.</p>
<p><b>Minimum GPA to apply:</b> Many programs have a minimum GPA for applicants, typically a 2.7-3.0 overall.</p>
<p><b>Personal Statement:</b> The OTCAS asks for a statement that addresses why you selected OT as a career and how an Occupational Therapy degree relates to your immediate and long term professional goals. In addition, your statement should describe how your personal, educational, and professional background will help you to achieve your goals. OTCAS limits your personal statement to 7500 characters, including spaces.</p>
<p><b>Letters of Reference (LOR):</b> Reference letters on your behalf will be submitted directly by the recommender to the central application service, unless otherwise directed by a specific OT program. You will identify these individuals on your application (including their email address). OTCAS will send an email directly to the reference person with a link for them to submit their recommendation.</p>
<p><b>Interview:</b> Competitive applicants may be invited to participate in an interview process. Interviews may include faculty members, current students of the program and/or practitioners. Interviews may be used to assess oral communication skills; professional behavior; attitude; knowledge of the profession and/or health care overall; problem-solving skills; etc. Go to your interviews with prepared questions about the school/program that show your interest in what the school has to offer (other than being close to home or low tuition).</p>
<p><b>Deadlines:</b> The OTCAS deadline reflect the date that you must E-Submit your online application to OTCAS, this will vary by program.</p>
<p><b>Early Decision:</b> Early decision, if available, is a binding option for applicants who have decided that a specific program is their first choice and that they <u>will</u> enroll if accepted. Programs with early decision programs set their own deadline. Most early decision deadlines are in the fall (anytime from September – November). Early decision programs may have more stringent requirements for applicants (i.e., higher GPA, all prerequisites completed, etc.)</p>
<p><b>Data for Accepted Students:</b> Not Available at this time</p>