

Health Professions Academic Preparation

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

An undergraduate education provides students with the opportunity to grow personally and intellectually; allowing them the time and resources to discover a breadth of new ideas and topics as well as to build and to explore in depth their own interests and passions. Therefore, students should seek a broad education during their undergraduate years. There is no required major for entrance to occupational therapy (OT) programs. **The following courses represent what may be taken at UTSA to fulfill the core and program prerequisites for entry to the Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA).** Please note that all requirements are subject to approval by UTHSCSA and are subject to change. Further, because there is some variation in requirements for other occupational therapy programs, students are advised to consult individual programs for their specific and most current information.

UTSA Prerequisites for Other Required Courses			
Psychology	PSY 1013		
Program Prerequisites-Must receive C or better			
Anatomy (3 hrs lecture; 1 hr lab) <i>NOTES: Most institutions offer combined Anatomy and Physiology courses while UTSA offers them as separate courses. Therefore, the courses should be completed at the same institution.</i> <i>BIO 3123 was formerly BIO 2123; BIO 2083 was formerly AHS 2083; BIO 3132 was formerly BIO 2132; BIO 2091 was formerly AHS 2091.</i>	¹ BIO 3123 or ² BIO 2083		¹ BIO 1413; ² BIO 1404 or BIO 1233 (BIO 1233 not recommended for pre-OT students)
	¹ BIO 3132 Lab or ² BIO 2091 Lab		¹ BIO 1413; ² BIO 1404 or BIO 1233 (BIO 1233not recommended for pre-OT students))
Physiology (3 hrs lecture; 1 hr lab) <i>NOTES: Please see above.</i> <i>BIO 2103 was formerly AHS 2103; BIO 2111 was formerly AHS 2111; BIO 3153 was formerly AHS 3463.</i>	¹ BIO 3413, ² BIO 2103 or ³ BIO 3153		¹ BIO 2313, CS 1173, MAT 1193, and STA 1403; ² BIO 1404 or 1233; ((BIO 1233not recommended for pre-OT students) ³ BIO 1404 and 1122
	¹ BIO 3422 Lab or ² BIO 2111 Lab		¹ Completion of or concurrent enrollment in BIO 3413; ² BIO 1404 or BIO 1233 (BIO 1233not recommended for pre-OT students)) with concurrent enrollment in BIO 2103 recommended
Physics or Kinesiology (3 hrs lecture)	¹ PHY 1603, ² KIN 3323, ³ KIN 4243, or ⁴ KIN 4403		¹ MAT 1023 (not recommended for pre-OT students) or MAT 1073; ² KIN 3313, BIO 2083, or BIO 3123; ³ KIN 3303 and KIN 3313; ⁴ KIN 3313
<i>Continued on Reverse</i>			
Statistics (3 hrs lecture)	¹ STA 1053, STA 1043, or ² PSY 2073		¹ Satisfactory score on placement exam (for STA 1053 and STA 1043); ² MAT 1023, MAT 1033, or MAT 1073 <i>and</i> one PSY course
Psychology (6 hrs lecture)	PSY 2503		PSY 1013
	PSY 2513		PSY 1013

Sociology or Anthropology (3 hrs lecture)	SOC 1013 (<i>preferred</i>) or any SOC or ANT course		Varies by course
Technical Writing (3 hrs lecture)	ENG 2413		WRC 1013 and WRC 1023
Medical Terminology (1 hr lecture)	Not offered at UTSA <i>Can be taken at community college, online, or in continuing education department with certificate of completion.</i>		

Please note that the previously listed UTSA courses and prerequisites are for students following the 2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog. Students following another undergraduate catalog should consult an advisor with any questions about course numbering.

Foundation Courses: For students who are not prepared to go directly into the required courses, it will be necessary to enroll first in foundational courses such as basic chemistry and an appropriate mathematics course. It may also be necessary to take the mathematics and chemistry placement tests to determine proficiency. For additional information, please consult an advisor early in your studies.

Application Process: The application period for the MOT program at UTHSCSA is from **August 15 through November 1** for the following summer. A bachelor's degree must be completed by the end of the fall semester prior to the following summer of admissions. Students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 to be eligible to apply. Further information on the application process is available at: http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/prospects_ah_programs_ot.aspx and <http://shpwelcome.uthscsa.edu>. We recommend that students also learn about the application processes for other OT programs by consulting them individually for specific information. Programs across the nation can be located on the website for the American Occupational Therapy Association (<http://www.aota.org/>).

Letters of Evaluation: Letters of evaluation are an essential part of the application to many OT programs. Because selection committees depend heavily on these letters to gain insight into applicants' personal strengths, weaknesses, and accomplishments, students should be sure to request letters of evaluation from individuals, such as professors, work supervisors, and volunteer supervisors, who know them from various perspectives and know them well. Letters from family members or other individuals whom students know only on a personal level are inappropriate.

The UTHSCSA OT Program specifically requires two letters of evaluation, one from an occupational therapist and one from a professor or employer, to be submitted on the applicant's behalf. Reference forms can be downloaded from http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/prospects_ah_programs_ot.aspx. Other programs may also have specific requirements regarding letters of evaluation. Students should be sure to refer directly to their programs of interest for further information.

Personal Statement: The UHPO staff will read and provide feedback to students regarding their personal statements given sufficient time; preferably two weeks prior to when comments are needed. We also recommend that students visit The Writing Center at UTSA (www.utsa.edu/twc) for further review.

Interviews: The UHPO can offer advice as students prepare for interviews and, after interviews, would like to debrief with students about their impressions. The University Career Center also facilitates interview workshops and conducts mock interviews to provide students with feedback. For more information about their services, contact them at the Main Campus [UC 2.02.04 or (210) 458-4589] or Downtown Campus [BV 1.304 or (210) 458-2910].

Community Service/Volunteering/Shadowing: An integral part of preparation for programs in occupational therapy entails involvement in community service projects and volunteer work in a hospital or clinical setting. These activities serve to familiarize prospective occupational therapists with the realities of everyday clinical

practice as well as to underscore the role of occupational therapists and healthcare in relation to broader community level concerns and issues. A list of volunteer opportunities is available on the UHPO website (www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions). We do not, however, have a list available for shadowing experiences. Students must exercise personal initiative and develop relationships that would allow them to have this direct contact with an occupational therapist in everyday clinical practice.

For the MOT Program at UTHSCSA, the documentation of at least 40 hours of volunteer and/or observation of a registered occupational therapist is required. A documentation form must be completed and can be downloaded at http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/prospects_ah_programs_ot.aspx. If applying to other programs, students should learn about whether or not specific forms are needed for documentation as well.

Additional Information/Resources: The UHPO keeps and maintains resources that will be available to students in our office. These include books, journals, handouts, and other resources. Useful information about occupational therapy as a profession and other OT programs can be found on the website of the American Occupational Therapy Association (<http://www.aota.org/>). The Welcome Center at the UTHSCSA School of Health Professions (www.shpwelcome.uthscsa.edu) is another source of primary information for students considering remaining in San Antonio. Students may visit the center to speak directly with representatives of the School of Health Professions and to obtain all pertinent information regarding admissions and, more generally, the program in Occupational Therapy. Students can also make appointments by calling 210-567-8744 or sending an email to shpwelcome@uthscsa.edu.

KIN to Occupational Therapy 3+3 Dual Degree Program: This is a joint program between The University of Texas at San Antonio and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) School of Health Professions. Although it may not be a good fit for all students, this program offers those with an interest in occupational therapy the opportunity to receive early conditional acceptance to the UTHSCSA School of Health Professions and to earn both a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology with a Concentration in Athletic Medicine from UTSA and a Master of Occupational Therapy degree from UTHSCSA within six years. Information Sessions are held monthly. All students interested in the program may attend one of these information sessions to learn more about the program and its requirements prior to scheduling an individual appointment with an advisor to discuss. For information on when the information sessions will be offered, please see the UHPO website, call us, or visit our office.

Health Professions Advising: The UHPO provides advising and support to students interested in pursuing careers in the health professions, including OT. This consists of academic preparation assistance as well as information about health careers, application procedures, and entrance exams for undergraduates, post-baccalaureate students, non-degree seeking students, and alumni. Students are encouraged to seek advice and consult with the UHPO advising staff early in their college career. For more information about our appointment and walk-in schedules and our other services, please contact us:

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