



Pre-Occupational Therapy Quick Facts

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Anatomy & Physiology (CBIO 2200/L & 2210/L)

Statistics (STAT 2000)

Psychology (PSYC 1101 & 3230)

Sociology/Anthro (SOCI 1101* or ANTH 1102)

Lifespan Development (HDFS 2200)

Physics (PHYS 1111/L)

Medical Terminology (CLAS 1030)

Always check target schools for specific requirements

Recommended

Nutrition (NUTR 2100)

Advanced Writing Courses

GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION

Most OT schools require that applicants take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The GRE consists of three sections: Quantitative, Verbal, and Essay section.

There are no specific courses that you need to take prior to the GRE, but you should plan to dedicate roughly six to eight weeks to exam preparation.

While you can opt for a commercial prep course for the GRE, self-study is often sufficient. Generally, it is recommended for you to take the GRE January-May as you head into the application cycle.

The GRE is offered via University Testing Services on a regular basis. GRE scores are good for 5 years.

Average
Matriculant
Numbers

- Overall GPA: 3.6
- Science GPA: 3.4

GRE: 302 combined, 4.0 writing

GRADE TRENDS

- Strong science and overall GPAs are essential.
- Positive grade trends matter
- Negative grade trends are cause for concern (repeated withdrawals, poor science grades, excessive science coursework outside UGA)

Show you can handle rigorous scientific content.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Most schools use OTCAS (opens in July)
 - Augusta uses its own system (opens July 1)
- Apply early due to rolling admissions
- Most schools require Transcripts, GRE scores, Personal Statements, & Letters of Evaluations
- Master's or Doctoral Degree (Trending towards being the doctoral level.)
- Usually 2-3 years long

Programs in GA:

- Augusta Univ.
- Brenau Univ.
- Georgia State Univ.
- Mercer Univ.

Occupational Therapists help clients regain independence in daily activities (ADLs). Unlike Physical Therapy (PT), which focuses on movement, OT takes a more holistic, environment-adapting approach.

There is no “best” major for pre-OT students. Instead, you are encouraged to pursue a major you are genuinely interested in as that will help you excel.

VOLUNTEERING & EXTRACURRICULARS

- Does not have to be related to OT - pursue what you are passionate about.
- Emphasizing work with people with disabilities (e.g., ESP, Special Olympics, AIRS, Camp Twin Lakes) can help show commitment, but is not required.
- Leadership and consistency matter
- Consider UGA's Disabilities Certificate for added engagement
- Research is not a requirement, though if you have an interest in research it can help to diversify your experiences

SHADOWING

- Recommended: 100+ hours across 3-4 diverse settings
- Log hours using school specific OT log forms and have OTS verify/sign
- Schools value depth and diversity in involvement— focus on quality, not quantity
- Always check what your target school requires. Shadowing requirements can vary among schools.

LETTERS OF EVALUATION

- Large lecture classes make it harder to connect, so be intentional in building relationships with professors.
- Attend office hours regularly
- Engage during class & labs
- Develop relationship over a period of time for a strong letter.

Choose Letter Writers Wisely

- Pick people who know you well
- Choose strong, specific letters over generic letters
- Ask early and give plenty of notice.

Most OT schools require three letters of evaluation. Requirements can vary between schools, and it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have collected the correct letters for their program of interest.

Generally, programs expect students to provide:

- one letter from a licensed OT
- one letter from a faculty member (some schools require this to be a major professor)
- one professional (employer, research mentor, etc.)

Students should select what they believe will be the most compelling letter.

GEORGIA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM APPLICATION DATES

<u>INSTITUTION</u>	<u>APPLICATION PERIOD</u>	<u>MATRICULATION DATE</u>
Augusta University	July - October	May
GA State University	July - January	May
Brenau University	July - October	August
Brenau Hybrid Day*	July - October	May
Brenau Hybrid Weekend*	July - May	January
Mercer Univ.	July - June	August

* Brenau University has three different cohorts for their MSOT program with different class schedules.