Occupational therapy is a healthcare profession that provides services to individuals of all ages whose lives have been disrupted by physical injury or illness, developmental problems, the aging process, or social or psychological difficulties. Occupational therapists assume the roles of practitioner, manager of occupational therapy services, and contributor to the profession. The occupational therapist practitioner develops and implements a treatment plan to help individuals to function in self-care, home management, school, work, and play/leisure occupations to establish a lifestyle that is optimally independent, productive, and satisfying to the individual. The occupational therapist manager understands the roles and functions of other healthcare professionals and collaborates with them in coordinating and integrating services. The occupational therapist contributor recognizes current issues facing occupational therapy and healthcare, participates in clinical research, and advocates appropriately for clients and the profession.

Students pursuing a career in Occupational Therapy must eventually earn a master's degree. The MOT Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE’s telephone number, c/o AOTA, is 301-652-AOTA and its Web address is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the Program will be eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination for the Occupational Therapist, administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the graduate will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, most states require licensure to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT Certification Examination or attain a state licensure.

**Required Skills:**
- Communication (Oral & Written)
- Concern for People
- Adaptability
- Open Mindedness
- Creativity
- Patience
- Decisiveness
- Team Work

**Possible Employers:**
Occupational therapists work in a variety of settings including hospitals, mental health facilities, sports medicine clinics, work hardening centers, rehabilitation centers, hand clinics, hospices, public or private schools, home health agencies, neonatal units, nursing homes, community agencies, and private practice.

**Professional Organizations:**
- The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA) - www.aota.org
- American Occupational Therapy Foundation - www.aotf.org
- World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) - www.wfot.org
- Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association - www.pota.org

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CAREERS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT:**
- AOTA - www.aota.org/consumers.aspx
- Career Services - www.upb.pitt.edu/career.aspx
Pre-Occupational Therapy – Curriculum Guide

Student Name:  
Advisor:

Students can identify their career goals by following the Pre-Occupational Therapy advising track however this is not an official Pitt-Bradford major. Students interested in this career must select an official major while completing the Pre-Occupational Therapy requirements. Most students pursuing this career track major in Athletic Training or Sports Medicine.

PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The University of Pittsburgh’s occupational therapy program is an entry-level master’s degree program. The student will complete a bachelor’s degree at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and then apply to the University of Pittsburgh’s Master of Occupational Therapy program in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS). No specific bachelor’s degree is mandated, but biology, psychology, and sports medicine are majors commonly chosen. Any bachelor’s degree should include the following courses:

☐ BIOL 0212/0222 Anatomy and Physiology I
☐ BIOL 0213/0223 Anatomy and Physiology II
☐ PSY 0101 Introduction to Psychology
☐ PSY 0202 Child Development
☐ PSY 0206 Abnormal Psychology
☐ PSY 0201 Statistics

In addition to earning a bachelor’s degree and completing the required courses listed above, the student must earn a minimum overall and prerequisite 3.00 QPA, take the general Graduate Record Examination (GRE), and complete a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer or paid work in occupational therapy in at least two different practice areas.

The University of Pittsburgh School for Health and Rehabilitation Sciences offers a freshman guarantee to the occupational therapy masters program.

Pitt Freshman Guarantee: Students must apply for this guarantee the very first time they register as freshman at Pitt-Bradford by specifying occupational therapy and then the Office of Enrollment Services will automatically review for granting of the guarantee. If all MOT admissions criteria are met, the student is automatically accepted into the masters program and will not have to compete for admission, but they will have to apply for admission during the senior year of their undergraduate program.

University of Pittsburgh Freshman Guarantee in Occupational Therapy in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences:
• Indicate PREOT Pre-occupational therapy on the admissions application,
• Minimum pre-2005 SAT score of 1200,
• Complete an undergraduate degree at Pitt with an overall QPA of 3.3 or higher, as well as a QPA of 3.3 or higher in the prerequisite courses,
• Achieve a combined score of 1000 or greater on the Verbal, Quantitative sections and a minimum score of 3.5 on the Analytical Section of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE),
• Complete 20 hours of volunteer experience.

Check with the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences (admissions@shrs.pitt.edu) for their most current requirements for the Freshman Guarantee.

Please note that transfer credits will be re-evaluated by the University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Program Contacts: Mr. Mark Kelley, 163 Sports & Fitness Center, mfk7@pitt.edu, 814.362.0984  
Mr. Jason Honeck, 164 Sports & Fitness Center, honeck@pitt.edu, 814.362.7536

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

2.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average, 120 Earned Credit Hours, 30 Hours of Upper Level Courses (1000 level or above)

NOTE: This guide is unofficial. Completing the requirements on this sheet does NOT guarantee degree completion. Official degree completion information can be found in MY.PITT.EDU. Contact your Faculty Advisor and/or the Registrar’s Office with questions or concerns.