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, and 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.

The Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program prepares students to become occupational therapists. The program is designed to develop the next generation of doctorally trained occupational therapists who will be able to rigorously implement evidence-based practice, understand care delivery models, and meet the future occupational needs of society. Students will develop the skills needed to assume leadership roles within health, education, and wellness systems. The OTD curriculum includes course objectives and learning activities that prepare students beyond the generalist level of an occupational therapist in practice skills, research skills, administration, professional development, leadership, advocacy and theory.

The OTD Program has applied for accreditation and has been granted Candidacy Status by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (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. For additional information regarding the OTD Program's accreditation status and projected timeline visit www.shrs.pitt.edu/otd/about.

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
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 Exercise Science.

PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The University of Pittsburgh’s occupational therapy program is a doctoral 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 Doctor of Occupational Therapy program in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS). No specific bachelor’s degree is mandated, but biology, psychology, athletic training, and exercise science 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 40 hours of volunteer or paid work in occupational therapy in at least two different practice areas. Submit three letters of recommendation and a self-evaluation essay.

The University of Pittsburgh School for Health and Rehabilitation Sciences offers a freshman guarantee to the occupational therapy doctoral 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 OTD admissions criteria are met, the student is automatically accepted into the doctoral program and will not have to compete for admission, but they will have to apply for admission during the senior year of their under-graduate 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,
- Complete an undergraduate degree at Pitt with an overall QPA of 3.6 or higher, as well as a QPA of 3.6 or higher in the prerequisite courses,
- Achieve minimum scores at the 50th percentile on the verbal, quantitative, and analytical sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE),
- 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 Sorts & Fitness Center, honeck@pitt.edu, 814.362.7536

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT BRADFORD
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.