



Pre-Occupational Therapy Track

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Pre-Professional Track

A pre-professional program is a statement of intent on the student's part, not an academic major.

Occupational therapists are health professionals who work with individuals to maximize performance in their everyday life tasks when impacted by injury, disease, or other health risk. Occupational therapists are part of a healthcare team that may also include physicians, physician assistants, physical therapists, speech pathologists, and recreational therapists. "Occupation" refers to those everyday meaningful tasks that individuals do each day. The goal of occupational therapy is to help individuals successfully engage in purposeful tasks that comprise daily life.

Undergraduate students interested in occupational therapy must declare an undergraduate major. In addition to declaring an undergraduate major, students then select pre-professional occupational therapy as a secondary area of interest.

The occupational therapy program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). The program is 30 months long and includes six months of full-time Level II fieldwork. Students must complete Level II fieldwork within 24 months of the completion of the didactic portion of the curriculum in order to graduate. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for occupational therapy administered by the National Board for certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, most states require licensure in order 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 state licensure.

Program Overview

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

General admission requirements for the UW-La Crosse occupational therapy graduate program include:

- An undergraduate degree or completion of an undergraduate degree prior to starting the program
- Completion of all prerequisite course work including

Biology	General Biology (BIO 105)
	Anatomy & Physiology I & II (BIO 312 & BIO 313)
Chemistry	None required, but need CHM 103 for BIO 312 at UWL
Math	College Algebra (MTH 150) required if taking CHM 103
Physics	Fundamental Physics I (PHY 103) or Physics for the Life Sciences (PHY 125)
Social Sciences	General Psychology (PSY 100)
	Abnormal Psychology (PSY 204)
	Lifespan Development (PSY 212)
	Plus any sociology or anthropology course; suggested: Introduction to Sociology (SOC 110) or Human Nature/Human Culture (ANT 101)
Statistics	Elementary Statistics (STAT 145) or Mathematical Models in Biology (MTH 265)
Additional Requirements	Medical Terminology (CHE 460 or HP 250)

- Minimum grade attainment of at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA
- No more than two prerequisite courses with a grade of "C"
- No prerequisite course work with a grade below "C"

NOTE: Several of the above admission requirements also satisfy UWL General Education requirements.

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