

The image features a central blue oval containing the text "Occupational Therapy" in white. The oval is set against a background of several thin, light gray concentric circles and a thick black curved shape on the left side. The text is centered within the oval and is the primary focus of the image.

Occupational Therapy

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Screening

Evaluation

Treatment:

- Physical
- Psychosocial
- Social
- Vocational

Follow-up

Administration

Teaching

Research

Occupational Therapy Employers

Hospitals (e.g., psychiatric and rehabilitative)

Schools

Group or private practice

Nursing homes and residential care facilities

Community mental health centers

Adult daycare programs

Job training centers

Out-patient rehabilitation facilities

Home healthcare agencies

Federal and state government:

- Department of Defense
- Public Health Service
- Veterans Administration

Universities and colleges

Occupational Therapy Strategies

Build a solid foundation in physical, biological, and behavioral sciences.

Develop excellent communication skills which are important when interacting with patients and their families.

Volunteer in an occupational therapy or related healthcare setting to experience the field first-hand and meet program requirements.

Individuals working in occupational therapy should possess patience and a true interest in helping people with disabilities reach their full potential.

Learn to work well within a team. O.T.'s work with many other professionals in the rehabilitation of patients.

Earn a master's (MOT, MA, MS) or doctoral (OTD, less common) degree from an accredited program by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

Doctoral degree is often preferred for university teaching and administrative positions.

All states regulate O.T. licensure. Requirements include passing a certification exam given by the American Occupational Therapy Certification Board and a supervised clinical internship. Those who have passed the exam apply to become Occupational Therapists Registered (OTR).

Occupational therapists may choose to specialize in a particular age group or type of disability after passing national exam certification.

General Kinesiology Information

Most careers in these fields require professional certification. Though many entry-level positions may be obtained with an undergraduate degree, most will require additional clinical experiences and a graduate or professional degree.

Given the growing number of aging adults, many positions available in these areas will involve working with the elderly.

Join professional associations. Read their publications and attend their meetings, seminars, and conventions to learn more about the field and make contacts.

Get involved with local sport teams, intramurals, or recreational programs and facilities. Seek leadership roles, manage equipment and facilities, or plan events.

Professionals in this field typically start in smaller organizations and work their way into positions with larger or more prominent employers. Look for jobs in the minor leagues, high schools, or smaller colleges and universities to enter the sport industry.

Fitness communication is also a growing field offering opportunities to write, research, and report on health and fitness related topics for newspapers, magazines, and websites. If interested in this area, take supplemental course work in English, journalism, or broadcasting and seek opportunities to volunteer with local or campus newspapers or television/radio stations.

Earn a graduate or professional degree for increased opportunities.

Maintain excellent personal fitness and athletic proficiency.

Learn to relate well to people with varying personalities and backgrounds.

An undergraduate degree in kinesiology offers excellent preparation and meets many pre-requisites for a variety of pre-professional programs in the field of healthcare. Meet with a pre-health advisor to identify any additional prerequisites for entry into a particular graduate school.