



PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OT SCHOOL | *Courses, GRE, and Observation Hours*

Course requirements for OT schools vary widely. For example, some schools require calculus and others do not. Most programs prefer students with broad, well-rounded backgrounds and value a liberal arts education. A science major is not necessarily required for professional programs; in fact, a major or minor in the arts, humanities, or social sciences may be attractive to some OT schools. However, you must balance the requirements of your major with those of OT school admissions and take a wide variety of science courses. Careful planning is essential to avoid scheduling conflicts.

It is recommended that you investigate the particular requirements of OT schools to which you are interested in applying. These can be found at aota.org. Regardless of a school’s particular course requirements, students applying to OT school programs must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The content categories are:

- *Verbal Reasoning*
- *Quantitative Reasoning*
- *Analytical Writing*

Information about the exam and complete content description can be found at ets.org.

GENERAL COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION to *most* OT schools, and the courses at Hollins that satisfy them

Two semesters of General Chemistry	CHEM 101/102 or 105/214
Two semesters of General Biology	BIOL 220/236
Two semesters of Introductory Physics	PHYS 151/152 or 201/202
One semester of Human Anatomy	BIOL 260
Intro to Statistics or Research Statistics	STAT 140 or PSY 208
Intro to Psychology	PSY 141
Cultural Anthropology	ANTH 145
Two semesters of English Composition	ENG 100/Others

In addition, many schools require the following.

Precalculus or Calculus	MATH 140 or 241/242
Intro to Sociology	SOC 110/113
Biological Psychology	BIOL/PSY 317
Life-Span Human Development	
Humanities elective	
Communications elective	

Please check with the particular program on what they require or recommend their applicants to complete.

Because the GRE does not depend on you completing a certain number of prerequisite courses prior to taking it, please plan to take it when your schedule permits. If you plan to apply Early Decision, you can take the GRE no later than July 31 before your senior year. Dates for the exam run year-round, but you must schedule your test weeks in advance at a special testing site. It takes 10-15 days to receive your score. Information about dates, locations, and fees can be found at ets.org.

APPLYING TO OT SCHOOL

Official OT school application deadlines vary, but are typically between October and February. However, it is **strongly** advised that you apply early as some programs have rolling admission.

In addition to transcripts and test scores, you will need letters of recommendation from your professors. You must request these from professors who can honestly comment on your potential to successfully navigate an OT program. Most OT schools use the Occupational Therapist

Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) system for recommendation letter submission. Information about OTCAS, participating colleges, fees, and deadlines can be found at otcas.liaisoncas.com.

Some programs have a minimum number of hours you must observe at OT clinics in order to apply. Required hours run anywhere from 20 hours to 100 hours. Start this process very early. More information can be found at aota.org or aotf.org.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brian Gentry, pre-health sciences advisor | (540) 362-6545 | gentrybs@hollins.edu