

# Pre-Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy is skilled treatment that helps individuals achieve independence in all facets of their lives. It gives people the "skills for the job of living" necessary for independent and satisfying lives. Services typically include:

- Customized treatment programs to improve one's ability to perform daily activities
- Comprehensive home and job site evaluations with adaptation recommendations
- Performance skills assessments and treatment
- Adaptive equipment recommendations and usage training
- Guidance to family members and caregivers

A wide variety of people can benefit from occupational therapy, including those with

- work-related injuries including lower back problems or repetitive stress injuries
- limitations following a stroke or heart attack
- arthritis, multiple sclerosis, or other serious chronic conditions
- birth injuries, learning problems, or developmental disabilities
- mental health or behavioral problems including Alzheimer's, schizophrenia, and post-traumatic stress
- problems with substance use or eating disorders
- burns, spinal cord injuries, or amputations
- broken bones or other injuries from falls, sports injuries, or accidents
- vision or cognitive problems that threaten their ability to drive

*Information above taken from The American Occupational Therapy Association, 4720 Montgomery Lane, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220*  
<http://www.aota.org/featured/area6/index.asp>

*The following employment information was taken from:*  
*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition, Occupational Therapists,*  
*on the internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapists.htm>*  
*(visited February 27, 2017)*

## **Job Outlook**

Employment is projected to increase 27% or more than the average, as rapid growth in the number of middle-aged and elderly individuals increases the demand for therapeutic services.

## **Earnings**

The median annual wage for occupational therapists was \$80,150 in May 2015. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$53,250, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$116,030.

## **Educational Requirements**

- Beginning in 2007, a master's degree or higher in occupational therapy will be the minimum educational requirement.
- To obtain a license, applicants must graduate from an accredited educational program and pass a national certification examination. Those who pass the exam are awarded the title "Occupational Therapist Registered (OTR)."
- Occupational therapists are increasingly taking on supervisory roles, allowing assistants and aides to work more closely with clients under the guidance of a therapist, in an effort to reduce the cost of therapy.
- More than a quarter of occupational therapists work part time.

## **Educational Programs**

In 2009, 150 master's degree programs or combined bachelor's and master's degree programs were accredited, and 4 doctoral degree programs were accredited.

Georgia educational campuses offering a Masters Degree and accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) as of February 2017 were:

- Brenau University in Gainesville
- Brenau University in Norcross
- Augusta University

Source: <http://www.aota.org/Educate/Schools/EntryLevelOT/38119.aspx#ga>

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