

PHYSICAL and OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Miami's Pre-Physical/Pre-Occupational Therapy program is designed to provide students with the course background and advising support needed for preparation and admission into an accredited physical or occupational therapy program. Students interested in physical or occupational therapy usually complete their bachelor's degree at Miami and then apply to doctoral degree programs in physical therapy, or master's or doctoral degree programs in occupational therapy. In order to complete your bachelor's degree in a timely manner and satisfy required course work for physical or occupational therapy programs, we recommend you do the following:

1. Research the course prerequisites for physical and occupational therapy programs early in your undergraduate career. This way you can plan your undergraduate course work accordingly.
2. Keep your grade point average above a 3.0 (the higher the better).
3. Become a member of Miami University's Pre-Physical and Occupational Therapy (Pre-PT/OT) Club in order to learn more about new professional programs, changing requirements, and where Miami students have been accepted.
4. Regularly check in with your faculty advisor.

Course Selection:

Each PT and OT school sets its own prerequisite courses for admission into their program. The following is a list of courses many Physical and Occupational Therapy programs require prior to admission. NOTE: This is only a general guideline. **Students are responsible for determining the exact prerequisite courses for the programs of interest to them.**

General Prerequisite Courses	Miami Equivalent
1 year General Biology	BIO/MBI 115/116
1 year College Chemistry with laboratory	CHM 141, 144 and 142, 145
1 year College Physics with laboratory	PHY 161 and 162
1 semester Human Anatomy	BIO 201 <u>or</u> KNH 244 and 244L
1 semester Human Physiology	BIO 161 <u>or</u> 305
1 semester Statistics	STA 261
1 semester Biomechanics	KNH 381
1 semester Exercise Physiology	KNH 468
1 semester English Composition	ENG 111
1 semester General Psychology	PSY 111 and 112
1 semester Developmental Psychology§	PSY 231
1 course in Medical Terminology	

§Some programs recommend Abnormal Psychology (PSY 242).

Choice of a Major at Miami:

Miami's pre-physical therapy/pre-occupational therapy students can pursue any major on campus (there isn't a right or wrong major). However, regardless of what major is chosen, students need to make sure that they are concurrently taking the Physical/Occupational Therapy school prerequisite courses. It should also be kept in mind that these fields will require diverse skills, and you can greatly benefit from a broad education. Hence, electing to have a double major within the sciences is not advised.

Clinical Work or Summer Job Experience:

Many Physical and Occupational Therapy schools require applicants to have completed clinical volunteer or work hours in the field. Many schools look for evidence of exposure to the kinds of patients with whom you will eventually work. Many schools prefer that you have experience in a variety of clinical settings. The number of required hours varies by school, with most schools requiring approximately 100 hours. Some clinical opportunities exist in the Oxford community.

Tests for Admission to Physical Therapy Programs:

The majority of schools require the General Record Examinations (GRE). This test should be taken in between your third or fourth year of college. Some schools require the Allied Health Professions Aptitude Test (AHPAT) for admission. Students must contact their schools of choice to determine which tests are required.

Pre-Physical and Occupational Therapy (Pre-PT/OT) Club:

This club is a useful source of information about the various Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy schools and programs and about career opportunities in the field. In addition, the Pre-PT/OT Club provides a network of support for both current and former students.

Further Information:

Directories of programs are on the internet at www.apta.org (Physical Therapy) or www.aota.org (Occupational Therapy).