Western Carolina University | Pre-professional Pathways

Pre-Occupational Therapy

In order to become an occupational therapist, you must:

- complete a bachelor's degree (in any major) *WCU Undergraduate Major Options*
- take the appropriate prerequisite coursework *(see list of programs for specific requirements)*
- take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) *Examprep.wcu.edu*
- obtain required experience or shadowing hours *(see list of programs for specific requirements)*
- apply through OTCAS, some colleges may require additional applications *OTCAS*
- complete a Masters or Doctorate level Occupational Therapy program *List of programs*
  Note: Entry level Occupational Therapy Degrees will move to doctorate level only in 2027
- pass the NBCOT Certification Examination and apply for licensure in state of practice *NBCOT.org*

What should I major in?

While there is no prescribed major for admission into a occupational therapy program, it is imperative that students complete all required courses for admission. OT programs vary significantly in their requirements, and it is important for you to learn what coursework the schools that interest you want. Students should choose their major according to their strengths, interests and alternative career choices. The Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Services (OTCAS) is used by the majority of OT schools but individual schools may also require a separate application to their institution as well. Minimally, a student should complete these courses at WCU with a B or better for entrance into many occupational therapy programs:

BIOL 291, BIOL 292
Human Anat. & Phys. I, Human Anat. & Phys. II
HSCC 322
Medical Terminology
MATH 170
Applied Statistics
PSY 150, 319, and 470
General Psychology, Developmental Psych: Lifespan, Abnormal Psychology
ANTH 110 or 120, or SOC 103
Origins of Civilization or Comparative Cultural Systems, or Human Society

WHO CAN HELP ME AT WCU?

For information on undergraduate program options and admission requirements for occupational therapy schools, contact pre-professional advisors:

Pre-Professional Students:
828-227-7753
prepro@wcu.edu

Honors College Students:
Emily Sharpe
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go.wcu.edu/preprofessionaladvising

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