

Preparation for Admission to Occupational Therapy Programs

The curriculum described here leads to a BS degree in biology and also include prerequisite courses needed for admission to the Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). Other OT programs are similar, but you should study the specific requirements for the programs to which you plan to apply. Completion of a baccalaureate degree is required prior to entering OT school. After completing your baccalaureate degree, three additional years are required at the professional school, after which you receive a doctorate in occupational therapy. NOTE: You do not have to major in biology, but most students do since it includes nearly all of the pre-OT prerequisites and recommended electives as part of the major. If you plan to pursue a major other than biology, consult the appropriate advisor to plan your degree program, then add the additional OT prerequisites. Study the OTD program requirements on the UMMC website for complete information

(https://www.umm.edu/Education/Schools/Health_Related_Professions/Occupational_Therapy/Occupational_Therapy.aspx).

Note: For students enrolling in the OT program at UMMC prior to May 2018, the baccalaureate degree is not required and completion of the program leads to a Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT). In 2018, the program becomes a doctoral program, and the MOT program will no longer be offered.

	Courses	Credit	Notes
General Education Requirements			
English Composition	ENG 101 and ENG 102 or 103	6	Two semesters of English composition
Communication Studies	COM 101 or 202	3	Take either Public Speaking or Interpersonal Communications.
Humanities and Fine Arts: Literature	Any literature course	3	Most students choose ENG 203 or 204
Humanities and Fine Arts: History	Choose one course from: HIS 101, 102, 103, 104, 201, or 202.	3	History of civilization (101/102), world history (103/104), or United States history (201/202)
Humanities and Fine Arts: Fine Arts	Choose one of: ART 101, 212, 401, 402, 405; MUS 114, 115, 116, 117; THE 225, 320	3	Any introduction, appreciation, or history of art, music, or theater course. Those listed are the ones typically chosen (See <i>Bulletin</i> for course descriptions)
Humanities and Fine Arts: Elective	Choose PHY 201 or any course listed above under literature, history, or fine arts.	3	Philosophy or any other humanities or fine arts course from this section.
Personal Development	Choose from: CEL 300, CIS 205, FCS 215, FCS 270, FCS 325, FCS 343, foreign language, LIB 101, PER (100 level), SHS 360, SWO 101, or SWO 300	2-3	While any of the listed courses (see <i>Bulletin</i> for course descriptions) can be taken to meet this requirement for the biology major, pre-OT students should consider taking microcomputer applications (CIS 205), because many OT schools require or recommend a computer course.
Perspectives on Society	PSY 101 plus one of: ANT 101; ECO 210, 211; GEO 201, 303, PSC 103, 201; SOC 101	6	General psychology plus one of the listed courses from the fields of anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, or sociology. (See <i>Bulletin</i> for course descriptions)
Mathematics	(see next section)		Satisfied by mathematics taken for Special Degree Requirements
Writing Proficiency	ENG 300, ENG 301, passing CAAP score, or passing GRE writing score	0-3	Satisfied by passing the Writing Proficiency Exam (ENG 300) or ENG 301, a score of 3 or higher on the CAAP exam, or a score of 3.5 or higher on the GRE writing component. See your advisor for more information.
29-33			
Special Degree Requirements			
Mathematics	MAT 104, 105, 300 or MAT 251, 300	6-9	College algebra plus trigonometry plus statistics. Students who are exempt from 100-level math courses may take one semester of calculus plus one semester of statistics. (Either of these combinations satisfies general education mathematics.)
Chemistry	CHE 101, 102, 103, 104	8-10	First and second semesters of general chemistry with laboratories
14-19			
Major Requirements			
Biology Core	BIO 100, 101, 300, 301, 328	20	Principles of biology I and II, cell biology, ecology, and genetics.
400-level electives	Four BIO courses at the 400-level (except BIO 470)	12-16	Any 400-level biology course, except internship, can count in this category. Your advisor will help you choose courses that best fit your interests and goals.
Anatomy and physiology	BIO 230 and 231	8	Both semesters of anatomy and physiology.
BIO electives	All BIO courses are eligible except those described as "not for biology major credit."	4-8	Choose any biology courses except those designated for non-science majors. Your advisor will help you choose specific courses.

Additional Occupational Therapy Prerequisites

Developmental Psychology	PSY 307	3	Developmental psychology (Human Growth and Development is also acceptable).
Physics	PHY 221, 233	4	One semester of physics with laboratory.
7			

Recommended Electives

Occupational therapy recommendations	Recommended electives include: medical terminology, advanced science courses (these are more than covered by the biology major), psychology, research courses. Consider courses that meet the prerequisites of other health related programs to which you may also wish to apply (especially physical therapy).		
Advisor recommendations	Consult your advisor	Advisors help students choose courses related their interests, career goals, and preparation for any professional or graduate programs. You must take enough electives to bring your total credit to at least 124.	

Additional Notes:

- A baccalaureate degree from Delta State requires a minimum of 124 credit hours. Of that 124 hours, at least 62 must be taken at a senior college, at least 31 must be taken at DSU, and at least 40 must be 300- or 400-level courses. Courses taken at 2-year schools cannot be counted at the 300- or 400-level. 24 of the last 30 hours must be taken at DSU.
- For biology majors, enrollment in upper-level BIO courses (BIO 200 and above) requires that you have "Full Admission" status. You have full admission status if you have completed BIO 100, 101, and CHE 101, 102, 103, and 104 with no grades below C. Consult the DSU Bulletin or the Department of Biological Sciences web site, or see your advisor for more information.
- The occupational therapy program at UMMC begins each May. Preference is given to Mississippi residents; out of state applicants will be considered only if there are positions available after all qualified Mississippi applicants are accepted. The application deadline is usually January 15th, but check their website for the current deadline.
- Admission to occupational therapy school at UMMC requires the completion of a baccalaureate degree plus specific prerequisite courses. The curriculum described above meets the requirements for (1) the DSU BS degree with major in biology and (2) any additional courses required by the OT program at UMMC. If you choose a different major, your curriculum will be different. Consult with an advisor for your chosen major to plan your course of study.
- Admission to occupational therapy school at UMMC requires a grade point average of at least 3.0. (To be competitive, you need a GPA significantly higher than this minimum. A minimum grade of C is required in each of the following seven OT prerequisite courses: statistics, general psychology, developmental psychology, anatomy and physiology (2 semesters), physics (1 semester), advanced physical or biological science (1 course, 300 Level or above).
- All seven of these prerequisite courses must be completed by the OT application deadline.
- Regardless of your major, you must complete all DSU prerequisites for each science course. For example, although general biology and general chemistry are not specific prerequisites for OT school, BIO 100, CHE 101, CHE 103 are prerequisites for anatomy and physiology, and a full year of general biology and chemistry are required for many upper-level BIO courses. An advantage of pursuing the biology major is that these prerequisites are automatically covered as you take the correct sequence of major courses.
- A score on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required. It is important to prepare for this exam. Although UMMS does not have a minimum required GRE score, your score is one of the criteria used to determine who will be awarded admission. For more information on the GRE, see <http://www.ets.org/gre>
- UMMC requires a minimum of 24 hours of observation under an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant in at least three occupational therapy clinical departments or practices within the two calendar years preceding the application deadline.
- For more information on occupational therapy programs, visit web sites of the schools you plan to apply to. For UMMC: https://www.umm.edu/Education/Schools/Health_Related_Professions/Occupational_Therapy/Occupational_Therapy.aspx
- **IMPORTANT:** Application to health professional schools is very competitive. Completion of the minimum requirements will not ensure admission. Admission decisions are based on policies established by the professional school's faculty and admission committee. Successful applicants typically have GPAs and other qualifications well in excess of stated minimums. Talk to your advisor for more information on what is realistically needed to have a good chance of getting into your desired professional school.