

## **Occupational Therapy Opportunities at Gordon College**

Occupational therapy is a rapidly growing area in health related professional careers, and the demand for competent therapists is increasing. An education in Kinesiology geared toward occupational therapy is a great way for students to gain a competitive edge in graduate programs.

Gordon College offers pre-occupational therapy coursework for students interested in this field and will set the student up for success and ease as he or she transitions from undergraduate to graduate studies to obtain such a career goal. The Health Professions Concentration for the Pre-Occupational Therapy Tract ensures that students at Gordon College have taken the most common pre-requisite courses before applying to graduate programs.

Following are details regarding the Pre-Occupational Therapy track within the major of Kinesiology, as well as information about various Occupational Therapy settings in the area where students can gain experience and greater understanding of their options in such a career through volunteer work, internships and observation.

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## Pre-Occupational Therapy Track at Gordon College

Students can fulfill the requirements of the Pre-Occupational Therapy Track while studying any major at Gordon College. However, we recommend the Kinesiology major because many of the required classes within the HPA concentration are covered in the major itself.

Following the Health Professions Concentration for Occupational Therapy will help students apply to graduate programs with ease, as the track ensures that the most common and highly recommended courses have already been taken by the student. It is important to note that not all graduate programs have the same requirements, so students should be proactive and do additional research on their own in regards to the prerequisite courses required by the programs to which they plan to apply. This individual research should begin by the end of a student's sophomore year to ensure that he or she has enough time to find and take all the courses needed prior to graduation.

The following list is the current Pre-Occupational Therapy track at Gordon.

- PSY 220 Person in Psychological Context
- PSY 246 Clinical Psychology: Psychopathology
- 100-level Sociology\*\*
  - Intro to Sociology
- One semester of writing\*
- BIO/KIN 213 Human Anatomy and Physiology I
- BIO/KIN 214 Human Anatomy and Physiology II
- MAT 220 Biostatistics
- KIN 323 Foundations of Exercise Physiology

The following list is based on research we have done by a sampling of nineteen Occupational Therapy graduate programs and pooling what the most common prerequisite courses are. This is what we recommend pre-OT students take for prerequisite classes.

- KIN 213 & 214 Anatomy and Physiology I & II
- MAT 220 Biostatistics
- PSY 220 Person in Psychological Context
- PSY 246 Clinical Psychology: Psychopathology
- PSY? Lifespan Development\*\*
  - Birth to death.
- 100-level Sociology\*\*
  - Intro to Sociology
  - Additional social science courses vary by program.\*
- One semester of writing\*

**Recommended but not required:**

- BIO Intro to Biology I with lab
- Medical terminology

- Through **NECCUUM**

**Other less common pre-requisites:**

- Physics I with lab
- Chemistry I with lab
- Reasoning courses\*  
(philosophy/logic/religion)
- Neuroscience
- Research methods

- Math
- Communications\*

\*Can be fulfilled by common core courses.

\*\*See next page.

## **Northeast Consortium of Colleges and Universities in MA (NECCUUM)**

Gordon College is a member of NECCUUM which allows students to take courses at a variety of different schools in the area. To be eligible, students must have a 2.0 minimum grade point average, and be considered full time students based on total credits. Also, students must be enrolled in more credits at Gordon than at the NECCUUM schools. NECCUUM courses should be utilized to take courses not offered at Gordon or to resolve scheduling conflicts. Please note that many schools offer 3 credit courses unlike Gordon, so this needs to be taken into account for graduation requirements.

Visit [www.gordon.edu/neccuum](http://www.gordon.edu/neccuum) for more information or go to the registrar to fill out the appropriate forms.

**\*\*These prerequisite courses currently cannot be satisfied at Gordon.**

### Lifespan Development –

Graduate programs typically require this course content to cover birth through death.

Gordon's **Life Span Development** course is 4 credits and covers adolescent through aging. It does not cover the entire lifespan and is typically offered every other spring so students should plan their schedules accordingly.

Gordon also offers a 4 credit **Developmental Psychology** course each fall which covers birth through adolescence. Students would need to take both courses to potentially fulfill this graduate prerequisite.

Another option is to take a lifespan development course through **NECCUUM** at a school that condenses the entire lifespan in one semester.

Intro to Sociology – Gordon does not currently offer a 100-level introductory course for sociology that fulfills graduate program prerequisites. The 100-level courses offered at Gordon tend to cover some general introductory content, but students should note that the course title may or may not be acceptable to graduate programs. Students can send copies of syllabi to graduate schools prior to taking the course to ensure the credits will be accepted, or students can take this course through **NECCUUM** at schools that do offer 100-level introductory sociology courses.

## Statistics

To create the recommended Pre-OT track, we took a sampling of a total of 19 programs, including top ranked schools and local schools. The percentage listed represents the frequency of which that particular course is required as a prerequisite among all 19 schools.

See pages 8-9 for additional information regarding specific prerequisites and various degrees offered for schools included in this sample.

<b>Course</b>	<b>%</b>
Anatomy & Physiology I&II	100
Social Science	100
Intro to Statistics	84
Abnormal Psychology	79
Lifespan Development	74
Medical Terminology	47
Biology	37
Intro to Psychology	32
Physics	16
Reasoning	16
Chemistry	11
Neurophysiology	11
Writing	11
Research Methods	11
Musculoskeletal Anatomy	11
Math	5
Life Science	5
Communications	5

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Many graduate programs require specific hours of direct observation or volunteering. Even if a certain program does not have such a requirement, volunteering and observing in various Occupational Therapy settings is useful and beneficial to a student for many reasons. Such experience will allow a student to better understand their options in a future career, it will give student's an edge over other applicants who may not have any experience, and it will broaden a student's understanding of their major and provide them with the confidence that comes from real world experience that cannot be obtained in a classroom.

There are many different settings where one can volunteer, observe, or work for Occupational Therapy experience. Such settings include skilled nursing facilities, out-patient day programs, long term care facilities, schools, and more. The follow provides a few organizations nearby where students can apply to volunteer, intern, or observe certified Occupational Therapists and certified Occupational Therapist Assistants as they work with patients in the past and are open to continued communication.

### **1. Nevins Family of Services**

10 Ingalls Court, Methuen, MA  
978-682-7611  
<http://www.nevinsfamily.org/>

Nevins Family of Services is a non-profit organization that primarily serves seniors and disabled citizens. The facility has various settings where a student can obtain observation hours. Settings include a skilled nursing facility with both long-term nursing care and acute rehabilitation and transitional care, as well as an adult day health care center.

For questions, please contact Barbara Strzykalski, Director of Rehab Services, at [bstrzykalski@hcnevins.org](mailto:bstrzykalski@hcnevins.org).

### **2. Windrush Farms**

479 Lacy Street, North Andover, MA  
978-682-7855  
<http://www.windrushfarm.org/volunteer.html>

Windrush Farm is a Therapeutic Riding and HIPPO Therapy facility that seeks to "expand and enrich the personal, emotional and physical abilities of all those they serve by partnering with our horses and the environment". Windrush Farm primarily works with adults and children with both physical and mental disabilities.

For questions, please call or email [volunteer@windrushfarm.org](mailto:volunteer@windrushfarm.org).

## **Internship Opportunities**

The Kinesiology major at Gordon College currently allows students to seek internship opportunities pertaining to their specific concentration and track as a for-credit class. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this option in order to gain more firsthand experience that can be referenced in graduate applications. The organizations listed above could potentially be used as internship opportunities upon further inquiry, but students are also able to seek their own internship sites.

### **KIN 425 Internship (2 or 4 credits)**

Internship experiences in a field appropriate to student's concentration. Learning plan must be completed with departmental faculty supervisor and approved in advanced by the department chair and registrar.

**Children's Piazza** in Beverly, MA has expressed interest in working with Kinesiology students, especially pre-OT students, under the guidelines of an internship for credit. Further information on this opportunity is attached at the end of this packet, pages 11-23.



## Various Occupational Therapy Applications

### **Boston University**

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/sar/programs/occupational-therapy/ms/>

- Prerequisites: Anatomy and Physiology I and II with lab, Gross Human Anatomy (taken online the summer before the first semester), Child or Lifespan Development, Introductory Statistics, Abnormal Psychology  
\*Accepts online courses
- Degree(s) offered: MSOT

### **Huntington University**

<https://www.huntington.edu/Graduate/Occupational-Therapy/Prerequisites/>

- Prerequisites: Anatomy and Physiology I with lab, Statistics or Research, Intro. to Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, a social science course, Medical Terminology  
\* Online courses not specified.
- Degree(s) offered: OTD

### **MGH Institute of Health Professions**

<http://www.mghihp.edu/academics/school-of-health-and-rehabilitation-sciences/occupational-therapy/entry-level-doctor-of-occupational-therapy/why-an-otd.aspx>

- Prerequisites: Anatomy and Physiology I and II, Lifespan Development, Statistics, Two Psychology courses (Intro to Psychology, Abnormal Psychology or Developmental Psychology), Biology with lab, a social science course  
\*Accepts all online courses.
- Degree(s) offered: OTD

### **Ohio State University**

<http://medicine.osu.edu/hrs/ot/future-students/admission-information/pages/index.aspx>

- Prerequisites: Anatomy and Physiology I and II with lab, Statistics, Abnormal Psychology, Intro to Sociology, Medical Terminology, Writing  
\*Online courses not specified.
- Degree(s) offered: MSOT, MSOT/PhD

### **Sacred Heart**

<http://sacredheart.edu/academicprograms/occupationaltherapy/programinformation/pre-requisites/>

- Prerequisites: Anatomy and Physiology I and II, Lifespan Development, Statistics, Psychology course, Biology with lab, a social science course  
\* Online courses not specified.
- Degree(s) offered: MSOT

### **Tufts University**

<http://ase.tufts.edu/bsot/programsELM.htm>

- Prerequisites: Two courses in biology (either A&P I and II, or a semester of Anatomy & a semester of Physiology may be substituted), Introductory Statistics, two courses in social sciences (anthropology, psychology, human development, sociology, etc.)  
\*Online courses only accepted for statistics
- Degree(s) offered: MSOT

**University of Illinois at Chicago**

<http://www.uic.edu/gcat/AHOT.shtml>

- Prerequisites: Anatomy and Physiology I and II with cadaver lab (offered at UIC if accepted), Child Psychology/Development, Introductory Statistics, Abnormal Psychology, Intro. to Sociology or Anthropology or Social Psychology  
\*Accepts online courses except Anatomy&Physiology
- Degree(s) offered: MSOT

**University of Southern California**

<http://ot.usc.edu/academics/two-year-masters>

- Prerequisites: Anatomy and Physiology I and II with lab, Lifespan Development, Introductory Statistics, Abnormal Psychology, Intro. To Sociology or Social/Cultural Anthropology, Medical Terminology  
\*Accepts online courses except Anatomy&Physiology
- Degree(s) offered: MSOT, OTD

**Washington University in St. Louis**

<http://www.ot.wustl.edu/>

- Prerequisites: Anatomy and Physiology I and II, upper level life science course, Childhood or Lifespan Development, Statistics, Abnormal Psychology, a social science course  
\* Online courses not specified.
- Degree(s) offered: MSOT, OTD

**Worcester State**

<http://www.worcester.edu/OccupationalTherapyDept/default.aspx>

- Prerequisites: Anatomy and Physiology I and II with lab, Lifespan Development, Introductory Statistics, two courses in Sociology or Anthropology or Ethics or Urban Studies, Neuroscience with lab  
\* Online courses not specified.
- Degree(s) offered: MSOT