



# XAVIER UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES CENTER

Conaton Learning Commons, Room 530 | 513-745-3141 | [xavier.edu/career](http://xavier.edu/career)

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MAJORS

### SKILLS & ABILITIES OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MAJOR

#### Skills

- Active Listening
- Patient Consultation
- Critical Thinking / Analytical Skills (Data)
- Develop Interpersonal Relationships
- Problem Sensitivity– quickly identifies when things are not right
- Problem Solving– creates the appropriate therapy program based on the patient's needs
- Creativity– motivates patients who are initially resistant to therapy
- Communication– effectively explains the injury and therapeutic process to patients
- Documentation– keeps detailed records of patients' injuries and the rehabilitation progress
- Social Perceptiveness– aware of others' reactions and the reasoning behind them
- Service Orientation– actively looks for ways to help people

#### Ability (Knowledge)

- Therapy and Counseling
- Customer and Personal Service
- Psychology– human behavior / performance and individual difference in ability / personality
- Education and Training– effective at teaching therapeutic exercises to patients
- Sociology and Anthropology– aware of group behavior and societal influences
- Medicine– understands proper techniques needed to diagnose and treat injuries
- Administration and Management– strategic communicator and leader
- Biology– competent about body tissues, cells and their functions and interactions with one another

*\*Partially taken from the Occupational Outlook Handbook*

### POTENTIAL CAREERS

#### Field-Based

- Occupational Therapist
- Registered Occupational Therapist
- Staff Therapist
- Assistive Technology Trainer
- Industrial Rehabilitation Consultant

#### Related Occupations

- Social and Human Service Assistant
- Director of Religious Activities
- Director of Education
- Physical Therapist
- Athletic Trainer
- Recreational Therapist

*\*Partially taken from the Occupational Outlook Handbook*

*\*Provided by the Bureau of Labor 2010-11*

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## **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RELATED TASKS**

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- Plan, organize and implement occupational therapy programs to rehabilitate those impaired by illness, injury or developmental problems.
- Evaluate patients' physical and mental abilities while analyzing data to determine realistic rehabilitation goals for patients.
- Select appropriate activities to assist patients in developing work and life-management skills
- Carefully evaluate and document patients' progress.
- Train caregivers how to provide for the needs of a patient during and after therapy.
- Recommend changes in the patients' work or living environments, consistent with their needs and capabilities.
- Develop and participate in discussions to promote client health, alleviate stress, and prevent physical/mental disability.
- Consult with the rehabilitation team when coordinating occupational therapy with other therapeutic activities.
- Develop programs and activities to help patients learn work and school skills while adjusting to their limitations.

*\* Taken from the Occupational Handbook*

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## **EARNINGS FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS**

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Median annual wages of occupational therapists were \$72,320 in May 2010. The middle 50 percent earned between \$60,000 and \$86,930. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$48,920, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$102,520. Median annual wages in the industries employing the largest numbers of occupational therapists were:

General Medical and Surgical Hospitals- \$73,160  
Offices of Other Health Practitioners- \$74,910  
Elementary and Secondary Schools- \$65,000  
Nursing Care Facilities- \$77,700  
Home Health Care Facilities- \$83,920

*\*Provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2010-11)*

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## **ADDITIONAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RESOURCES**

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- The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)
- Ohio Occupational Therapy Professional Association [www.oota.org](http://www.oota.org)
- Xavier University Occupational Therapy Graduate Program, [www.xavier.edu/ot/](http://www.xavier.edu/ot/)
- Advance (Publication) for Occupational Therapy Practitioners, [www.advanceforot.com](http://www.advanceforot.com)

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## **RELATED BOOKS IN THE CAREER RESOURCE LIBRARY (CLC 530)**

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- *Occupational Therapy as a Career*
- *Opportunities in Occupational Therapy Careers*
- *Occupational Outlook Handbook*