



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 leadership
- Biology– competent about body tissues, cells and their functions and interactions with one another

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

EARNINGS

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

ACTIVITIES ON THE JOB

- 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.
- Maintain the athletic training area and ordering necessary supplies
- Develop good working relationships with players, coaches, physicians, and school administrators.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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