

## Pre-Occupational Therapy Prerequisites and Timeline for Application



Idaho State  
University

Kasiska Division  
of Health Sciences

How to use this document:

- These are the prerequisites for the ISU occupational therapy program and for preparations to take the GRE or MAT. Check other individual programs for exact requirements.
- Take these classes (according to prerequisites). Work with a pre-health advisor to determine correct sequencing.
- This page demonstrates the prerequisites, you may choose to take two to four years – whatever amount of time fits best for your plan.
- Add major classes along with pre-occupational therapy prerequisites
- Pay close attention to sequences, prerequisites and when classes are offered
- Your major can be in any field as long as you have the classes to prepare you for an occupational therapy program – Choose your major by your greatest field of interest.

Course Subject and Title	Credits	Offered	Pre & Co Requisites
ANTH 1102 or ANTH 2237 or ANTH 2238 Cultural Anthropology	3	F,S-D-F,S	
BIOL 1101/L Biology I and Lab	4	F,S,Su	Placement into MATH 1108
BIOL 3301/L Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab	4	F,S	BIOL 1101/L or BIOL 2227/L
BIOL 3302/L Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab	4	F,S	BIOL 1101/L or BIOL 2227/L
CHEM 1111/L General Chemistry I and Lab	5	F,S	MATH 1143 or 1147 (recommended – CHEM 1101)
CPH/HCA 2210 or HO 0106 Medical Terminology	2	F,S	
COMM 1101 Fundamentals of Oral Communication	3	F,S	
ENGL 1101 Writing and Rhetoric I	3	F,S,Su	See English Placement Chart
ENGL 1102 Writing and Rhetoric II	3	F,S,Su	See English Placement Chart
MATH 1153 Statistical Reasoning	3	F,S,Su	MATH 1108
PSYC 2225 Child Development OR PSYC 3344 Adult Development and Aging	3	F,S D	PSYC 1101
PSYC 3301 Abnormal Psychology	3	F,S	
SOC 1101 Introduction to Sociology	3	F,S, Su	
Liberal Arts Courses of Choice*	15		
ENGL 3307 Professional and Technical Writing (Highly Recommended)	3	F,S	45 credits and ENGL 1102
PHYS 1111/L General Physics I and Lab (Highly Recommended)	4	F	MATH 1143 or 1147

### For Occupational Therapy Program Application

Register to take the GRE or the MAT (depending on the program)- Receive GRE scores 10-15 days after test date
Research programs you wish to apply to
3-6 months prior to application – Begin drafting your personal essay and finding letter writers
OTCAS Application
At least 3 months prior to deadline – Create your account and complete “Colleges Attended” and “Evaluations” sections
10-12 weeks before deadline – Ask schools to send official transcripts directly to OTCAS; check in with evaluators to confirm they received evaluation request
6-8 weeks before deadline – Complete and submit your application; monitor your application for receipt of transcripts and letters of evaluation
4-6 weeks before deadline – Continue to monitor your application until your status is verified
After deadline – Download a copy of your application for your records
Reach out to your programs to learn about admissions decisions

\*Liberal Arts courses in a variety of the following areas: Fine Arts (music, art, theatre, dance), Philosophy, Literature, Political Science, Economics, Language, Humanities, Ethics, History, etc. Up to 8 credits from any department

## What else do you need?

- Undergraduate degree
  - Major – complete all requirements for major
  - General Education Requirements
- Shadowing/Volunteering in Occupational Therapy
  - Programs may have a minimum time requirement for shadowing or volunteer experience
  - Must be done under the supervision of an occupational therapist or certified OTA
  - Look for opportunities at acute care or rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient clinics, school or pediatric practice, mental health practice, or nursing homes
- Healthcare Experience
  - All paid and unpaid work in a health-related field where you have patient interaction
  - Examples of healthcare experience include being a scribe, a CNA, or a medical assistant; basic patient care; filling prescriptions, etc.
- Leadership
  - In a healthcare setting or in a non-healthcare setting, students are encouraged to be creative
  - Shows that you are a strong member of a team
  - Showing leadership will make you stand out from other applicants and show you are actively preparing for your future in your career and community
- Research
  - More important for some programs than others
  - Talk to your advisor or instructors for help in finding research opportunities
- Letters of Recommendation
  - At least one letter from a science professor, one letter from an occupational therapist who directly observed you, one personal reference
  - Consult with your pre-health advisor to determine additional letters of recommendation
- Attributes
  - Communicative
  - Patience
  - Creative Problem Solving Skills
  - Organized
  - Compassionate
  - Collaborative

## Helpful links:

AOTA: <https://www.aota.org/>

Pre-Health at ISU – [isu.edu/hpac](http://isu.edu/hpac)

GRE: <https://www.ets.org/gre/>

MAT: <https://www.pearsonassessments.com/graduate-admissions/mat/about.html>

OTCAS Applicant Help Center: [https://help.liaisonedu.com/OTCAS\\_Applicant\\_Help\\_Center](https://help.liaisonedu.com/OTCAS_Applicant_Help_Center)