

**Occupational Therapy
Pre-Professional Program
2025-2026**

Nature of Work: Occupational therapists work with people who have difficulty coping with psychological or physiological dysfunction. Specifically, occupational therapists help individuals with mentally, physically, developmentally, or emotionally disabling conditions to develop, recover, and maintain daily-living and work skills. They not only help patients improve basic motor functions and reasoning abilities, they also help them compensate for permanent loss of function. They work to help patients lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives through the increase of strength, dexterity, and the ability to discern patterns.

An occupational therapist may practice in general hospitals, rehabilitation centers, pediatric or psychiatric hospitals, crippled children's camps and schools, geriatric homes, sheltered workshops, home-care, and community-centered programs. The primary concern of the therapist is to develop or redevelop self-care, work, and leisure skills. Therapy involves retraining patients to overcome their disabilities through the activities of daily living and working.

Professional Training: A degree in occupational therapy and successfully passing the national certification examination are required for work in the profession. A graduate degree is often required for teaching, research, or specialized programs.

Job Outlook: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), "Employment of occupational therapists is projected to grow 14 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations. About 10,100 openings for occupational therapists are projected each year, on average, over the decade" The aging of the baby boomer generation combined with need for care of those with chronic conditions will drive demand for occupational therapists. (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings: In their May 2021 salary survey, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median annual wage for occupational therapists as \$85,570, with the lowest 10 percent earning less than \$60,680 and the top 10 percent earning more than \$123,840. (See www.bls.gov)

Note: A Bachelor's degree of your choice (B.A. or B.S.) is required as well as these courses for acceptance into Loma Linda's Medical Occupational Therapy program.

**PRE-PROFESSION:
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

Winter Education Complex
(509) 527-2886

Websites

[Walla Walla University](#)
[University Bulletin](#)

[Pre-Profession: Occupational Therapy](#)

Faculty

Advisor
[Ruth Meltzer](#)

Professional Organizations

[American Occupational Therapy Association](#)

Additional Sources

[Loma Linda School of Allied Health Professions: Occupational Therapy](#)

Suggested Degree Path

[See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details](#)

The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete a pre-profession degree in Occupational Therapy.

Pre-requisites for LLU Program

Fall Courses	Hours
*Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 121)	4
Intro to Statistics (MATH 106)	4
Intro to Analytical Writing (ENGL 121)	3
Total	11

Winter Courses	Hours
*Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 122)	4
Developmental Psychology (PSYC 215)	4
Intro to Research Writing (ENGL 122)	3
Total	11

Spring Courses	Hours
*Anatomy & Physiology (BIOL 123)	4
Medical Terminology (NRSNG 234)	2
Research Writing (ENGL 223)	3
Total	9

+ Offered even years only

- Offered odd years only

*Beginning in August 2014, these courses must have been taken within 5 years prior to entry to LLU's program

A Bachelor's degree of your choice (B.A. or B.S.) is required as well as these courses for acceptance into Loma Linda's Masters of Occupational Therapy program.

Loma Linda University also requires:

- A documented minimum of 40 hours of observation experience in an occupational therapy department or community service before acceptance.
- Any student who has attended a Seventh-day Adventist college/university will be required to have religion courses.

B- grades will not be accepted for transfer credit at LLU. Admission is competitive so a 3.20 GPA or above is highly recommended.

If applying to a medical school **other than Loma Linda University**, the student should refer to the bulletin of that institution for specific entrance requirements. LLU generally requires 16 credits of religion for 4-year graduates from SDA institutions.

Note: The MOT degree will be offered for two more years. In July 2021, we will begin accepting applications for the Entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (EOTD) degree.