

# Pre-Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy is skilled treatment that helps individuals achieve independence in all facets of their lives. It gives people the "skills for the job of living" necessary for independent and satisfying lives. Services typically include:

- f* Customized treatment programs to improve one's ability to perform daily activities
- f* Comprehensive home and job site evaluation

## Job Outlook

Employment is projected to increase 27% or more than the average, as rapid growth in the number of middle-aged and elderly individuals increases the demand for therapeutic services.

## Earnings

The median annual wage for occupational therapists was \$80,150 in May 2015. The median wage is the wage at which half workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$53,250, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$116,030.

## Educational Requirements

- f Beginning in 2007, a master's degree or higher in occupational therapy will be the minimum educational requirement.
- f To obtain a license, applicants must graduate from an accredited educational program and pass a national certification examination. Those who pass the exam are awarded the title "Occupational Therapist Registered (OTR)."
- f Occupational therapists are increasingly moving on supervisory roles, allowing assistants and aides to work more closely with clients under the guidance of a therapist, in an effort to reduce the cost of therapy.
- f More than a quarter of occupational therapists work part time.

## Educational Programs

In 2009, 150 master's degree programs combined bachelor's and master's degree programs were accredited, and 4 doctoral degree programs were accredited.

Georgia educational campuses offering a Masters Degree and accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) as of February 2017 were:

- f Brenau University in Gainesville
- f Brenau University in Norcross
- f Augusta University

Source: <http://www.aota.org/Education/Schools/EntryLevelOT/38119.aspx#ga>

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