

University of Southern Mississippi
College of Science and Technology
Pre-Occupational Therapy Curriculum Rev. 4/09

The “pre-occupational therapy curriculum” is just *a list of courses that are required for admission to an occupational therapy program*. **It is NOT an academic major, a minor, or an emphasis area.**

The following list of **Required Courses** meets only the minimal requirements for admission to the *three-year professional program* within the **School of Health Related Professions at the University of Mississippi Medical Center** in Jackson.

Link to UMMC SHRP: <http://shrp.umc.edu/index.html>]

Link to Occupational Therapy: <http://shrp.umc.edu/OT/index.html>

Following satisfactory completion of all requirements for this professional program, students will be awarded the *Master of Occupational Therapy* degree from the University of Mississippi.

Students must consult the specific admission requirements and application deadlines for the school(s) to which they plan to apply, including UMMC.

- general biological sciences with laboratories (8 hours)
- anatomy and physiology with laboratories (8 hours)
- chemistry with lab (4 hours)
- physics with lab (4 hours)
- college algebra or higher math (3 hours)
- English composition (6 hours)
- speech (3 hours)
- humanities (6 hours)
- fine arts (3 hours)
- introduction to sociology (3 hours)
- social sciences (3 hours)
- general psychology (3 hours)
- advanced psychology [abnormal, adolescent or child] (3 hours)
- human growth or developmental psychology (3 hours)

Students must provide evidence of **16 hours observation in at least two occupational therapy clinical departments** at the time of application.

The **suggested course sequence** below is merely a guideline. Students must consult the USM Undergraduate Bulletin, the USM Class Schedule Guide for each semester, and their academic advisor. Some courses may be offered in specific semesters (Fall or Spring only) or on a rotating cycle.

YEAR 1

Fall		Spring	
ENG 101	3 h	ENG 102	3 h
CHE 106&L ^a	4 h	MAT 101 ^b	3 h
BSC 110&L	4 h	Three required courses ^c	9 h
One required course ^c	3 h		

^a, CHE 100 is required when the chemistry background is not adequate. Students may enter CHE 100 directly, if they choose. Students enrolled in CHE 106/L must take a standardized test during the first week or two of class in order to remain in CHE 106/L; if they do not meet the minimum score, these students move to a CHE 100 class.

^b, Placement in MAT courses depends on the student's ACT subscore. Students may enroll in Calculus directly if the ACT mathematics *subtest score is ≥ 26* ; otherwise, they must take prerequisite courses, typically College Algebra (MAT 101) and/or Trigonometry (MAT 103). Entering freshmen with an ACT mathematics *subtest score of ≤ 16* must take Intermediate Algebra (MAT 099) during the first semester. Students with an ACT mathematics *subtest score of 17-19* are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to take Intermediate Algebra before taking College Algebra. Beginning in AY 2009-2010, entering freshmen with an ACT mathematics *subtest score of ≤ 19* must take Intermediate Algebra (MAT 099) during the first semester.

^c, Students must take:

- one (1) Fine Arts course (select from ART 130, DAN 130, MUS 365, THE 100)
- two (2) Humanities courses (select from HIS 101, HIS 102, PHI 151, REL 131); ; if a student is pursuing a B.S. degree from Southern Miss, one Humanities must be a HIS course.
- two social sciences courses; one must be SOC 101
- PSY 110
- SCM 111
- sufficient elective hours to achieve a total of 57 hours of acceptable transfer credit (exclusive of physical education, military science, dogmatic religion and vocation courses).

Strategy for Success

- Students should focus on doing well in their studies.

YEAR 2

Fall		Spring	
BSC 250/L ^d	4 h	BSC 251/L ^d	4 h
PHY 111/L	4 h	Psychology course ^d	3 h
One required course ^c	3 h	Three required courses ^c	9 h
Psychology course ^d	3 h		

^d, Students may take one Comparative Anatomy or Morphology course with lab; otherwise, students must take a combined Anatomy and Physiology course with lab for a year (two-semester sequence).

^e, Developmental Psychology (PSY 275) is required. The second Psychology course can be Abnormal Psychology (PSY 436), Adolescent Psychology (PSY 372), or Child Psychology (PSY 270).

The application process must begin in the Fall semester. One class is admitted each summer and applications are considered once a year. Application deadline for the Summer 2009 entering class was December 12, 2008.

- Applicants provide evidence of **16 hours observation in at least two occupational therapy clinical departments.**
- Applicants must complete a minimum of 60 hours of academic credit (exclusive of physical education, military science, dogmatic religion and vocation courses) from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Applicants must have an overall GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale. (Applicants interviewed and accepted typically have a higher GPA.)
- A minimum grade of C is required on each course accepted for transfer.
- If a course is repeated, both grades are used in calculating the GPA.
- An interview with the Occupational Therapy Admissions Committee is required.

For more information about health-care careers in any of the Pre-professional areas contact:

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