

# Pre-OT Program at Messiah College (4 yrs)

Messiah College has a proud tradition of preparing students for careers in Occupational Therapy. While the academic and experiential requirements *may* vary by institution, most of them have similar requirements. Prospective applicants are encouraged to research the schools to which they may apply to best plan their curriculum. The purpose of this document is to present a brief outline of what is generally expected of successful applicants to Occupational Therapy School, and how Messiah College prepares its students to meet and often exceed these requirements. You will note that at Messiah we have both a 3+ and a four year Pre-OT **Program**. Our four year program is described here and is best thought of as an overlay of courses that can be scheduled as part of most majors, with the exception of engineering and nursing.

## Preparing for a Career in Occupational Therapy

<b>Description of Profession</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Department of Labor <i>Occupational Outlook Handbook</i> <a href="http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm">www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.explorehealthcareers.org">www.explorehealthcareers.org</a></li> </ul>
<b>Course Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements vary by school</li> <li>• Check the Student section on the American Occupational Therapy Association webpage (<a href="http://www.aota.org">www.aota.org</a>)</li> <li>• Generally, course work should include general biology, human anatomy and physiology, statistics, and social sciences</li> </ul>
<b>Application Timeline</b>	<p>Occupational therapy school directly after Messiah College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required courses completed by end of senior year (although preference may be given to applicants that complete the required courses sooner)</li> <li>• Apply during fall of senior year</li> </ul>
<b>Standardized Test</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate Record Exam (GRE)</li> <li>• Given virtually daily at computer test centers</li> <li>• Register on-line (<a href="http://www.gre.org">www.gre.org</a>)</li> <li>• Length 3 h</li> <li>• 3 sections : verbal (scores 200-800), quantitative (200-800), analytical writing (0-6)</li> <li>• Receive scores immediately</li> </ul>
<b>Application Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No centralized application service</li> <li>• Apply directly to each occupational therapy school</li> <li>• APPLY EARLY!!!</li> </ul>
<b>Admissions Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GPA</li> <li>• GRE</li> <li>• Letters of evaluation</li> <li>• Health-related experience</li> <li>• Personal statement</li> </ul>
<b>Length of Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varies by school</li> <li>• ≈ 3-4 years for OTD programs</li> <li>• ≈ 2 years for MS, MA, or MSOT programs</li> </ul>

<b>Degree</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OTD (Doctor of Occupational Therapy) (5 programs)</li><li>• MS (Master of Science) , MA (Master of Arts), or MOT (Master of Occupational Therapy) (most programs)</li></ul>
<b>Additional Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The American Occupational Therapy Association (<a href="http://www.aota.org">www.aota.org</a>)</li></ul>

## Career in

# Dentistry

Description of the Profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• U.S. Department of Labor <i>Occupational Outlook Handbook</i> <a href="http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm">www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm</a></li><li>• <a href="http://www.explorehealthcareers.org">www.explorehealthcareers.org</a></li></ul>
Course Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 year general biology</li><li>• 1 year general chemistry</li><li>• 1 year organic chemistry</li><li>• 1 year general physics</li><li>• Some schools may also require additional biology, English, math and/or social sciences (check the <i>Official Guide to Dental Schools</i>; <a href="http://www.adea.org">www.adea.org</a>)</li></ul>
Application Timeline	Dental school directly after Gettysburg College: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Required courses completed by end of junior year</li><li>• Apply during summer between junior and senior years</li></ul>
Standardized Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dental Admission Test (DAT)</li><li>• Given virtually daily at computer test centers</li><li>• Take after general biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry are completed (usually end of junior year)</li><li>• Register on-line (<a href="http://www.ada.org">www.ada.org</a>)</li><li>• Length 4.25 h</li><li>• 4 sections : survey of natural sciences (general biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry), perceptual ability, reading comprehension, quantitative reasoning</li><li>• Receive scores immediately</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DAT Program Examinee Guide (<a href="http://www.ada.org">www.ada.org</a>)</li></ul>
Application Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) (<a href="http://www.adea.org">www.adea.org</a>)</li><li>• Available ≈ May 15</li><li>• APPLY EARLY!!!</li></ul>

<b>Admissions Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall and science GPA (check <i>Official Guide</i> for #'s)</li> <li>• DAT (check <i>Official Guide</i> for #'s)</li> <li>• Letters of evaluation (committee letter)</li> <li>• Interview</li> <li>• Extracurricular activities</li> <li>• Health-related experience</li> </ul>
<b>Length of Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dental school: 4 years</li> <li>• Specialties require additional education after dental school</li> </ul>
<b>Degree</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)</li> <li>• Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)</li> <li>• (The two degrees are entirely equivalent.)</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Student Dental Association (ASDA) (<a href="http://www.asdanet.org">www.asdanet.org</a>)</li> <li>• <i>Getting into Dental School: ASDA's Guide for Predental Students</i> (<a href="http://www.asdanet.org/publication">www.asdanet.org/publication</a>)</li> <li>• American Dental Association (<a href="http://www.ada.org">www.ada.org</a>)</li> <li>• American Dental Education Association (<a href="http://www.adea.org">www.adea.org</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health Professions Committee interviews students during the spring semester to facilitate writing committee letter of evaluation</li> </ul>