

Also, the rapidly growing population of individuals 75 years of age and above will also continue to increase demand for the use of occupational therapy services.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Occupational Therapist Association
4720 Montgomery Lane
P.O. Box 31220
Bethesda, MD 20824-1220
Phone: (301) 652-2682
Fax: (301) 652-7711
Web: www.aota.org

Mississippi State
Department of Health
Division of Special Licensure
P.O. Box 1700
Jackson, MS 39215-1700
Phone: (601) 576-7260
Fax: (601) 576-7267

Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association
P.O. Box 4916
Jackson, MS 39202
Phone: (601) 355-1679



MHA HEALTH CAREERS CENTER

6425 LAKEOVER ROAD (39213)
P.O. Box 16444
JACKSON, MS 39236-6444
PHONE (601) 982-3251
FAX (601) 368-3200

WWW.MSHEALTHCAREERS.COM

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POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Occupational therapists use specialized knowledge to help individuals develop, perform, recover and maintain daily living skills and achieve maximum independence. They work with individuals who have conditions that impair them mentally, physically, developmentally, emotionally, or socially.

Their goal is to help clients have independent, productive and satisfying lives. They use a wide range of equipment and techniques to assist patients in activities ranging from dressing themselves, cooking, eating, or even using computers. They often use physical exercises to assist patients improve strength and dexterity, and a range of psychological or emotional programs that improve the patient's mental abilities. Occupational therapists should have the ability to communicate, physical strength to lift patients or equipment, and the mental stamina to endure the stress generated during the long and arduous process of treating each case.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Occupational therapists may work in hospitals, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation centers, mental health centers, nursing homes, schools, home health agencies, and hospice centers.

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Individuals considering a profession as an occupational therapist should take courses in biology, chemistry, physics, health, art, algebra, physical science, psychology, sociology, English and computer skills.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

A Bachelor Degree in occupational therapy is currently the minimum requirement for entry into this field; Students are required to complete six to nine months of clinical practice to obtain a degree in occupational therapy.

After completing college requirements, eligible individuals are required to pass a national examination to become licensed.

However, occupational therapists may be employed after May 1st to complete the program.

Students interested in occupational therapy should contact the program for information on the course of study.

EDUCATION

University of Mississippi
School of Health Sciences
2500 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39264
Phone: (601) 978-3800

Average Annual Salary Range

Employment of occupational therapists is projected to increase 15% for all occupations through 2010. This growth is due to the aging population and the need for occupational therapy services.