

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, A.S. (BERKS)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Berks

End Campus: Berks

Entrance to Major

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program admits students to begin in the fall semester.

Incoming first-year and transfer students who meet the program and campus admission requirements are admitted directly into the major. For more information about the admission process for this major, please send a request to the campus undergraduate admission office or to the program contact (listed in the Contact tab of the Bulletin).

First year students include those who have graduated from high school and have attempted fewer than 18 semester hours of college coursework at another college or university after high school graduation.

The minimum high school units required for admission to the Occupational Therapy Assistant program include four secondary units of English, two units of mathematics (including one unit of algebra), two units of science (one unit must be biology), and five units of arts, humanities, social studies, and/or foreign languages.

Although the minimum high school GPA required for admission is a 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale), this does not guarantee admissions into the program. The program is competitive; therefore, applicants who submit their application to Penn State by December 31 will be reviewed on a space available basis.

Transfer Applicants

In addition to a cumulative grade-point average, it is recommended that a transfer applicant should have demonstrated successful completion of at least three (3) credits of natural science with a lab and one (1) social science related course from another institution. These types of courses may include (but are not limited to) mammalian anatomy, physiology, chemistry, psychology, sociology, and other core biological, chemical, and social sciences. The admissions selection committee strives to select students who have demonstrated the potential to succeed in a rigorous, science-oriented program of study.

- * OT does not offer an advanced placement option for coursework for credit for experiential learning in the OTA program.
- * OT does not require prerequisite education or work-related experience for admission to the OTA program.

Change of Major

Requests will be considered for entrance into the OTP Program based on academic performance and space available in the OTA Program.

Students who wish to change their major must have a cumulative collegiate grade-point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale as the minimum University requirement for change of major consideration. In general,

change of major to the Occupational Therapy Assistant program requires a substantially higher cumulative grade-point average. The number of qualified applicants typically exceeds the number of available program spaces; therefore, satisfaction of the minimum requirements does not guarantee approval for entrance to major.

In addition to a cumulative grade-point average, it is recommended that all change of major applicants should have demonstrated successful completion of at least one (1) laboratory based biological and one (1) social science related course prior to the January review:

Biological and Life Sciences (one lecture and one lab)

- BIOL 161/BIOL 162: Anatomy & Physiology I
- BIOL 163/BIOL 164: Anatomy & Physiology II

Social and Behavioral Sciences (choose at least one)

- PSYCH 100: General Psychology
- HDFS 129: Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies or PSYCH 212

Additional Information

Students are responsible for proof of liability insurance and other requirements, including criminal background checks and health information specified by the facility providing supervised field experience.

A felony conviction on record may impact a student's ability to sit for the certification examination administered by NBCOT after graduation; this can subsequently impact a graduate's ability to attain state licensure. Before applying to the OTA program, students can contact NBCOT for information on their early determination program to assess examination eligibility. Contact NBCOT at <https://www.nbcot.org/> for more information.