1. WHAT IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?

In its simplest terms, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants help people of all ages participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). Unlike other professions, occupational therapy helps people function in all of their environments (e.g., home, work, school, community) and addresses the physical, psychological, and cognitive aspects of their well-being through engagement in occupation.

Common occupational therapy interventions include helping children with disabilities to participate fully in school and develop social skills, helping people recovering from injury to regain function through retraining and/or adaptations, and providing supports for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes. Occupational therapy services typically include:

- an individualized evaluation, during which the client, family, and occupational therapist determine the person’s goals,
- customized intervention to improve the person's ability to perform daily activities and reach the goals, and
- an outcomes evaluation to ensure that the goals are being met and/or to modify the intervention plan based on the patient’s needs and skills.

Occupational therapy services may include comprehensive evaluations of the client’s home and other environments, recommendations for adaptive equipment and training in its use, training in how to modify a task or activity to facilitate participation, and guidance and education for family members and caregivers. Entry-level practice requires a master’s degree for occupational therapists and an associate’s degree for occupational therapy assistants (who must be supervised by an OT).

To further explore the many roles of occupational therapists helping clients live life to its fullest, please visit the AOTA website: www.aota.org

2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM

For the most current information see the “Admission Requirements” section of the Occupational Therapy Department website: [https://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/departments/occupational-therapy/admission-to-ot](https://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/departments/occupational-therapy/admission-to-ot)

**Occupational Therapy Specific Required Prerequisites**

(Students **cannot** be waived from these courses):

- Mathematics 111  *Introduction to Statistics and Probability*  
  *(or a 3 credit college level statistics and probability course)*

- Psychology 102  *Introductory Psychology*

- Psychology 214  *Lifespan Development for Health Professions*  
  *(or Psy 215 and 216 Human Development I–Infancy and II–Adolescence / Maturity)*

- Psychology 338  *Abnormal Psychology*

- Sociology 101  *Introductory Sociology*

- Chemistry 106 and 107  *Essentials of College Chemistry and Essentials of College Chemistry Lab*  
  *(for Bio 234 & 235)*  
  OR  
  108 and 109  *Principles of Chemistry I and Principles of Chemistry II Lab*  
  *(for Bio 201 & 202)*

- Biology 201 and 202  *Biological Principles I and II*  
  OR  
  234 and 235  *Anatomy and Physiology I and II*

- Physics 140  *The Physical Universe*

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**Note: Applying students must also complete their Pathway General Education requirements.** Students possessing a Bachelor’s or Associate’s degree may be waived from some or all of the General Education requirements. This determination can only be made by the York College Office of the Registrar. Please see the Occupational Therapy website for information on York College General Education requirements: [www.york.cuny.edu/academics/departments/occupational-therapy/admission-to-ot/apply-to-the-ot-program](http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/departments/occupational-therapy/admission-to-ot/apply-to-the-ot-program)
Please Note: We reserve the right to make changes in the Prerequisites and Curriculum

- A minimum of 60 credits of OT-specific prerequisites and York College-CUNY General Education requirements must be completed prior to enrollment in the program. For credit and course sequence, please see link to Pathway Plan of Study for Occupational Therapy: [https://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/academic-affairs/pathways/four-years-plans/2016-2017/ot-four-year-plan-16-17-1.pdf](https://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/academic-affairs/pathways/four-years-plans/2016-2017/ot-four-year-plan-16-17-1.pdf)
- Minimum overall GPA of 2.9 (weighted grade point average from all colleges attended)
- A minimum grade of C is required to transfer credits from non CUNY colleges
- OT prerequisite courses taken more than 10 years ago must be repeated.
- Occupational Therapy prerequisite courses and York College General Education Requirements must be completed prior to enrollment in the program.
3. APPLICATION AND SCREENING

- Separate application to the City University of New York is required. Students who do not currently attend York College must also complete and provide proof of completion of the CUNY Undergraduate Transfer Application for Admission to York College. Visit [www.cuny.edu/undergraduate](http://www.cuny.edu/undergraduate) for information or to apply online.

- *Students must complete all outstanding prerequisite courses by the end of Spring semester prior to admission. In the Spring semester applying students can be registered for no more than two OT prerequisites, with no more than one course being a Natural Science course.

- Using **only** the form provided in the admission packet, document completion of 50 hours of volunteer work under an OTR/L in an Occupational Therapy setting. At time of availability applicants can obtain the application by visiting the OT Department (AC/1E12) or printing the application from the OT website: [http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/departments/occupational-therapy/admission-to-ot/ot-application](http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/departments/occupational-therapy/admission-to-ot/ot-application)

- Updated Resume

- Applicants that are transfer students must submit official sealed transcripts in hardcopy, from **all** colleges attended with the OT Admissions packet to the **OT Department**. Additionally you must **also** send transcripts and other required documents for **YORK COLLEGE**. Please contact York College Office of Admissions for requirements: [https://www.york.cuny.edu/admissions](https://www.york.cuny.edu/admissions).

- Current York students **must** print out unofficial transcripts from CUNYfirst and include it in the application packet. *Recently accepted York students must submit
official transcripts from previous college(s) as above if no previous course(s) were taken at York College.

- Proof of course registration must be provided if any applicants are planning to take courses in Spring. Once applicant obtains a grade for that course you must submit an official Transcript with the course grade.
- Applications submitted by mail must be post marked no later than the OT Admissions application deadline.
- Incomplete application packets will not be accepted.
- Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
- Students applying for the second time are required to submit a new complete application packet, containing all required documents and current transcripts.

4. ACCEPTANCE INTO THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Candidates for the program must keep in mind the competitive nature of the admissions process. Completion of required courses and initial eligibility to be screened does not guarantee admission into the program. Applicants are not considered accepted into the program until they receive a letter of acceptance from the Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy.

Please be aware that you may only apply for admission to the OT program on two occasions. No subsequent applications will be considered.

5. ADVANCED STANDING

There is no advanced standing in the program regardless of qualifications or experience of the applicants. All candidates must complete the entire course of study.

6. PROFESSIONAL COURSE SEQUENCE

There are 98 credits in the major that must be completed for graduation, not including York College General Education requirements or OT specific prerequisite course work. For credit and course sequence, please see link to Pathway Plan of Study for Occupational Therapy: https://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/academic-affairs/pathways/four-years-plans/2016-2017/ot-four-year-plan-16-17-1.pdf

Credits and course sequence are subject to change.

7. ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Occupational Therapy program begins in the Fall semester. Students who are accepted into the program will graduate with a combined Bachelor’s degree in Health Science and a Master’s degree in Occupational Therapy. The program is offered on a full-time basis only and requires 6 semesters of didactic course work and one extended semester of full-time fieldwork.
8. GRADUATES
York College Occupational Therapy graduates work in public, local, state, and federal institutions, as well as in private voluntary agencies and in private practice.

Graduates are eligible to take the certification exam of the National Board of Certification for Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), and then become licensed by the State of New York.

9. ACCREDITATION
The Occupational Therapy program at York College is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) c/o AOTA, 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449, (301) 652-2682. [http://www.aota.org/education-careers/find-school/accreditentrylevel/otmasters.aspx]

10. ADVISEMENT

**Students registered at York College:**
If you have 30-60 credits and have not declared a major you may schedule an appointment with an OT advisor. Please contact the Occupational Therapy Department Office 718-262-2720 or email: ot@york.cuny.edu to schedule an appointment.

**Advisement by appointment only**

**Students not registered at York College:**
Information sessions are provided for students transferring into York College at the end of every month. Dates are posted on the York College OT Website: [http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/departments/occupational-therapy/events](http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/departments/occupational-therapy/events)

Please contact the Occupational Therapy Department Office 718-262-2720 or email: ot@york.cuny.edu to secure a seat for a particular information session date and time.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- Students who are interested in the program must meet the requirements for admission to York College and additional eligibility requirements for admission to the Occupational Therapy Program.
- Admission to the Occupational Therapy Program is highly competitive and the numbers of seats are limited each year.
- This professional program is a Full time/Day program which may require classes scheduled in early morning or evening (schedule is preset for students). We do not offer weekend or summer classes.
- Students having earned over 120 credits will be charged graduate rates of tuition.

For Financial and College Costs information please contact the Financial Aid De-
Clinical education sites may also require fingerprinting. Students are responsible for any incurring expenses. Please be aware that a felony conviction may preclude an individual from taking the certifying examination and obtaining a license to practice. The educational requirements for completion of the OT BS/MS degree require placement of students at one or more clinical training sites that may require a criminal background check. For more specific information please visit: http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/departments/occupational-therapy/admission-to-ot

- There is no fee for the Occupational Therapy application
- No GRE is required
- We do not accept faxed or emailed applications. All applications must be postmarked no later than deadline given. Hand delivery preferred.
- For frequently asked questions regarding the Occupational Therapy program, please visit: http://www.york.cuny.edu/academics/departments/occupational-therapy/occupational-therapy-admissions-faq

12. NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

York College is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action institution in its educational programs and personnel principles. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, genetic predisposition or carrier status, alien status or citizenship, veteran or marital status, or status as a victim of domestic violence, harassment, or sexual assault.
violence in its student admissions, employment, access to programs, and administration of educational policies. The College follows the laws and mandates of the Federal Government as articulate by Executive Order #11246, and as amended by the Chancellor of The City University of New York on 12/9/76, to include Italian Americans.

We reserve the right to make changes in the Prerequisites and Curriculum

Please see the current York College Bulletin (https://www.york.cuny.edu/produce-and-print/contents/bulletin) for additional information or contact the Occupational Therapy Department:

Phone: 718-262-2720
Fax: 718-262-2767
Email: ot@york.cuny.edu

Mail: Occupational Therapy Department
Academic Core Building/Room 1E12
94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd
Jamaica, NY 11451

For admissions to York College, please contact:
York College Admissions Office
www.york.cuny.edu/admissions
718-262-2165
Occupational Therapy Department Faculty members are licensed and registered occupational therapists with experience in practice as well as education:

Lillian Kaplan, PhD, MA, OTR/L  
*Chairperson*  
*Specialty – Neuroscience*

Andrea Krauss, DSW, MSW, OTR/L  
*Program Director*  
*Specialty – Pediatrics (SI, LD, ASD and Family Intervention)*

Donald Auriemma, M.S.Ed., OTR/L, BCN, ATP  
*Specialty – Neuro Rehabilitation, Assistive Technology*

Tamara Avi-Itzhak, MS, DSc  
*Specialty – Research Design and Methodology*

Elise Henry, MS, MPH, OTR/L  
*Academic Fieldwork Coordinator*  
*Specialty – Pediatrics*

Beverly Horowitz, PhD, LMSW, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA  
*Specialty – Gerontology and Geriatric Practice*

**STAFF**

Vienesha Massaquoi, *CUNY Office Assistant*

Elizabeth Pizarro, *CUNY Office Assistant*

Robert Saby, *Senior College Laboratory Technician*