



# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Occupational therapy services include education and training in activities of daily living; the design, fabrication, and application of orthoses or splints; guidance in the selection and use of adaptive equipment; therapeutic activities to enhance functional performance; work readiness and skills; and consultation concerning the adaptation of physical environments for the handicapped. These services are provided to individuals or groups, to both inpatients and outpatients, and to employees in business and industry.

increase strength, endurance, and dexterity, while “word find” games can help improve visual acuity and the ability to discern patterns. A patient suffering short-term memory loss, for instance, might be encouraged to make lists to aid recall. One with coordination problems might be given extra tasks to improve eye-hand coordination. Computer programs have been designed to help patients improve decision-making, abstract reasoning, problem solving, and perceptual skills such as peripheral vision and discrimination of letters, colors, and shapes.

## CAREER PROFILE

Occupational therapists help mentally, physically, developmentally, or emotionally disabled individuals develop, recover, or maintain daily living and work skills. They help patients improve their basic motor functions and reasoning abilities, as well as help them learn to dress, bathe, cook, or operate machinery. Occupational therapists also help permanently disabled patients cope with the physical and emotional effects of being disabled. With support and direction, patients learn (or relearn) many of the day-to-day skills necessary to establish an independent, productive, and satisfying lifestyle.

Occupational therapists use activities of all kinds to treat patients. With children, they often use toys or games. Therapy for adults may range from using a computer to cooking. In addition to being useful skills, these activities also improve memory, sequencing, and coordination—all of which are important for independent living. Woodworking or leatherworking may help

## CAREER OUTLOOK

According to U.S. Department of Labor, employment of occupational therapists is expected to increase by 22 percent by 2028. The demand for occupational therapists should continue to rise as a result of growth in the number of individuals with disabilities or limited function requiring therapy services. As baby-boomers continue to move near retirement age, a period when the incidence of heart attack and stroke increases, the demand for therapeutic services also grows.

Earning potential for occupational therapists is strong. Although salaries vary with work setting and geographic location, the median annual wage of occupational therapists was \$84,270 in May 2018. Experienced therapists and those in supervisory and administrative positions can expect to receive higher earnings.

## EMPLOYMENT

- The wide population served by occupational therapists is located in a variety of settings such as hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation facilities, long-term care facilities, extended care facilities, schools, camps, and the patients' own homes. Occupational therapists both receive referrals from and make referrals to the appropriate health, education, or medical specialists.

## PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT SOUTHERN

- Occupational Therapy clinical programs vary with respect to the degree offered as well as entrance requirements. Most clinical programs are post-baccalaureate master's or doctoral degrees and require at least a four-year bachelor's degree for entrance. Some also require a minimum number of observation hours.

Southern Adventist University works with the pre-occupational therapy student to tailor an individualized program that will meet the specific requirements of the clinical program to which the student wishes to apply.



For further information on this or other Allied Health associate degrees offered by Southern Adventist University, contact:

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## REQUIRED PREREQUISITES

	Loma Linda	Kettering	AdventHealth
Anatomy & Physiology I & II	X	X	X
General Biology I*, General Physics I*, or General Chemistry I*			X
English I & II		X	
Psychology	Dev	Dev & Abnorm	Gen & Dev & Abnorm
Statistics	X	X	X
Medical Terminology (1)	X	X	X
Sociology		X	Sociol/Anthro
Minimum Grade	B	C	
GPA	3.2	3.0	3.0

\*Lab Required