

What do Occupational Therapists do?

Occupational Therapists help people improve their ability to perform tasks in their daily living and working environments. They work with individuals who have conditions that are mentally, physically, developmentally or emotionally disabling. They help their patients develop, recover or maintain daily living and work skills. Their goal is to help patients have independent, productive and satisfying lives. Some Occupational Therapists treat individuals whose ability to function in a work environment has been impaired. These practitioners arrange employment, evaluate the work environment, plan work activities and assess patient progress. Occupational Therapists also may collaborate with patient and their employers to modify the work environment so that work can be successfully completed. Occupational Therapists may work exclusively with individuals in a particular age group or with specific disabilities. Assessing and recording a patient's activities and progress is an important part of an Occupational Therapist's job. Accurate records are essential for evaluating patients, for billing and for reporting to physicians and other health care providers.

Where do Occupational Therapists work?

Occupational Therapists work in hospitals, nursing care facilities, home health agencies and outpatient care centers.

How can I become an Occupational Therapist?

After high school...

A bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy is the minimum requirement for entry-level positions. In addition, Pennsylvania requires that all Occupational Therapists be licensed.

Is this the career for me?

Occupational Therapists need to be critical thinkers and decision-makers. They need to be able to follow instructions and adhere to safety procedures. They also need to be sensitive to patient needs, pay close attention to detail and have strong communication skills. Recommended high school courses include Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Health and Social Sciences.

How much do Occupational Therapists make?

The average annual salary for Occupational Therapists is \$59,260.

Will I be able to get a job in Pennsylvania?

There are an average of 130 annual openings for Occupational Therapists in Pennsylvania.

Where do I go for more information?

www.pahealthcareers.org

Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers

**901 North Seventh Street
Suite 103
Harrisburg, PA 17102**

**Telephone: 717-772-4966
Fax: 717-783-4660
www.paworkforce.state.pa.us**