

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE MEMPHIS**

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES

The Union University Pre-Occupational Therapy program is a two-year program. You'll enroll in the professional program of your choice the Fall Semester of your second year. Most students enroll in UT-Memphis' highly rated OT program.

Your entrance to the UT-Memphis program will be determined mainly by your grades, especially in your science courses. Your entrance essay is also a big part, as is any pre-clinical work you've done. They want to see what else you've done with your life, as well—this is the “leadership potential” business that may be a little intangible, but if you've maintained good grades while being a decent human being involved with your community, that's good. Thus, UTM doesn't look down on you if you do extracurricular “fun stuff”, especially if you earn great grades while doing it!

There's another think I should say if you are thinking of going to UTM. Priority in admissions is given to Tennessee residents, but UTM says that if you are an out-of-state resident, your chances are still very good. If you are from another state, we will work to get you in your state's OT program, or one that accepts out-of-state residents. Union's OT program is solid, and if you want to go elsewhere than UTM, we'll get you there if you do your part and be a good student.

Now, what if you *are* a TN resident? What are your odds, based on statistics, of you getting into the UTM program? If you are a TN resident, then you have about a 40% chance of getting into the program. But remember, this is assuming that the applicant's grades are OK. UT-Memphis will consider all applicants with a GPA of 2.0 or above, but you will need at least a 3.0 GPA to be competitive. If you are a 3.8 GPA student, you should be a shoe-in! But if you are a 2.8 GPA student, you might not get an interview. Union students who have completed our pre-OT curriculum have been extremely successful at getting into the UTM program; much better than the 40% I quoted above. In fact, though I have not done a statistical analysis (I'd like to; I *am* a physicist, after all!), and have been the OT advisor for just three years, I'd say our students have a >75% chance of getting into UTM.

Now with *that* out of the way (whew!), here are the required classes:

Bio 112	Phy 213	Mat 111	Psy 213	Eng 111	
Bio 214			Mat 112	Psy 219	Eng 112
Bio 221	Che 111			Psy 317	Com 112
Bio 222					Soc 211

OTHER RECOMMENDED ELECTIVE COURSES:

CSC 105, Microcomputer Applications is strongly recommended by UT-Memphis. Other good elective options include:

Com 113	His 101	ECF 211	PEWS 414
Chr 112	His 102	Soc 313	
Chr 112	Phi 211	Art 210	

IS A DEGREE REQUIRED? YES X NO (COMMENTS ABOUT TRENDS)

Pre-OT students need not obtain a degree from Union before entering their OT professional program. Indeed, Union will not award degrees for a two-year pre-health program. Thus, many students desire to obtain another degree in a different major (Biology is a good option), so that they can get a Union degree.

IS CLINICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OR HELPFUL? IF SO, HOW MANY HOURS?

It is helpful, but the amount depends on your course load, whether you need to work to pay your way through school, etc. UT-Memphis says that not having a lot of clinical experience won't scupper your application. They do not specify a number of hours you must have worked in clinical experience before leaving Union. Yet, at the same time, UT-Memphis looks favorable on someone who has done clinical work because that gives them an objective OT professional who can evaluate you. UTM figures that if you did pre-clinical work and still want to be an OT, then you are dedicated to the field and UTM knows you won't be a risk.

AVERAGE GPA OF LAST ENTERING CLASS:

3.22. Basically, UT-Memphis says applicants need a 3.0 GPA o above to be competitive.

AVERAGE SCORE OF ENTRANCE EXAM OF LAST ENTERING CLASS

Not specified for the OT program. It is not required.