Minimum Required Coursework for Admission to OT Programs. Students should research the admission requirements for the occupational therapy programs to which s/he intends to apply early in his/her academic career, and s/he should schedule her/his undergraduate classes based on the requirements of the programs in which s/he is interested. Each student is ultimately responsible for knowing and fulfilling the admission requirements of the programs to which s/he intends to apply.

Most occupational therapy graduate programs require the following classes:

- 2 semesters of English composition (most graduate programs will accept INT 101, INT 201, and WRT 101 instead);
- 2 semesters of human anatomy and physiology with laboratories (BIO 202 and 203);
- 1 semester of statistics (STA 126);
- 1 semester of introductory psychology (PSY 101);
- 1 semester of developmental and/or abnormal psychology (PSY 245 or PSY 265);
- 1 semester of general biology with laboratory (BIO 211; note that the pre-requisite for this class is CHM 111, and that the pre-requisite for CHM 111 is MAT 133);
- 1 semester of social science that focuses on group behavior (SOC 101 or ANT 101); and
- 1 semester of medical terminology (Mercer does not offer this course; students who need this course are advised to find an accredited institution who offers it online (e.g., UNE, Liberty University).

Some programs require additional coursework in humanities, public speaking (COM 210), chemistry (CHM 111 and 112), physics (PHY 141 and 142), and/or kinesiology (which Mercer does not offer). Because admission requirements vary, students are urged to investigate the graduate programs available and identify their preferred programs early.

Academic Majors and Minors for Pre-OT Students. Occupational therapy schools look for individuals who come from various backgrounds and possess a variety of skills and interests. While most graduate and professional schools in the U.S. require applicants to complete a bachelor’s degree before they matriculate, they may not express a preference for any particular academic major when reviewing applications.

Pre-occupational therapy students may therefore major in any academic discipline that they are interested in, as long as s/he also completes the required courses for admission to his/her preferred graduate programs as well. Because a successful pre-OT student must demonstrate a superior level of motivation and exceptional academic performance, the chosen academic major should interest the student sufficiently to catalyze such performance.

Majors that offer good preparation for graduate work in occupational therapy include (but are not limited to) psychology, sociology, biology, global health, and public health. Pre-occupational therapy students must plan to complete the specific courses required by their preferred professional school(s) in addition to completing their major and minor programs of study (see the document Investigating OT Programs, on the Track page).

The Importance of Mathematics to the Pre-OT Track. To enroll in the first semester of general biology (BIO 211), a student must have first successfully completed general chemistry (CHM 111). To enroll in CHM 111, a student must demonstrate a minimum mathematics competency that is equivalent to pre-calculus (MAT 133) or above. This competency may be demonstrated through a “math index” (calculated upon entry as a first-year student using the high school GPA and math score on the SAT or ACT) of 980 or higher; college credit for MAT 133 (transfer, AP, or CLEP), or by scoring 15 or higher on the math placement test. Information about the math placement test can be found online here: http://aas.mercer.edu/for-students/placement-exams/.

CLEP Exam for Pre-calculus. A student who scores 50% or higher on the CLEP pre-calculus exam may submit his or her test official transcript to the Mercer registrar and receive MAT 133 credit. Information about the CLEP pre-calculus exam can be found here: http://clep.collegeboard.org/exam/precalculus.