



The Combined Program in Occupational Therapy

What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational Therapy (OT) is a health profession that uses purposeful activities appropriate to each person's age and social role to restore, develop and maintain the ability for independent, satisfying living. Occupational therapists, as members of a health team, provide special services, individually or in groups.

The Combined Program

Stern College offers a combined "3 + 2" year program in Occupational Therapy in conjunction with Columbia University's Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. Three years at Stern College are followed by two years at Columbia. During their first three years, students complete general and Jewish Studies requirements, fulfill prerequisites to admission to Columbia and complete at least 22 credits toward an individually designed major (see Shaped Major). In order to meet the 84 credit residency requirement, students who spend a year in Israel must take the maximum workload of 7 courses each semester. Yeshiva University confers the BA degree at the successful completion of the fourth year of study and Columbia University confers the Master's degree at the close of the program.

Prerequisites for Admission to the Program

1. 110 undergraduate credits are required for admission to the graduate segment of the program
2. A minimum overall average of 3.0 is required.
3. A grade of B or above is required in all prerequisite courses.
4. Knowledge of or experience in, Occupational Therapy through observation, work or volunteer experience is required.
5. Current certification in community cardiopulmonary resuscitation is required.
6. A course in either Neuropsychology or Neurobiology is recommended as preparation for Columbia's first year neuroscience course.
7. A course in physics (covering mechanical physics related to movement and/or principles of movement) while not required, is highly recommended.

The following undergraduate coursework is required:

- **Modes of Expression** (9 credits)
English 1100 (Composition); Speech 1010
- **Foundations of History, Philosophy & Social Sciences** (6 credits)
Introduction to Psychology 1010; Introduction to Sociology 1001
- **Interpreting Literature and the Arts** (9 credits)
Including English Literature
- **Contemporary US and Global Perspectives** (6 credits)

- **Science and Technology** (7-8 credits)
Biology 1011C, 1012C – Lecture & Lab
- **Quantitative Skills** (3 credits)
Statistics
- **Electives** (12 credits)
- **Jewish Studies**
4 semesters of Core and 14 additional Jewish Studies credits
- **Shaped Major** (25 credits)
BIOL 1011C – 1012C Principles of Biology I and II (as above)
BIOL 2730C – Human Anatomy
BIOL 3728C – Human Physiology
PSYC 1107 – Developmental Psychology (Lifespan)
PSYC 2414 – Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 3800 – Personality

Credits counted back from Columbia will complete the major.

Make sure to request that Columbia send first year transcript to SCW.

How to Apply

Interested students should meet with Occupational Therapy Advisor, Mr. Jeffrey Mollin, as early as possible to plan a course of study. Students apply to the graduate program by December of their junior year by finding the online application on the Columbia.edu website. Columbia encourages O.T. candidates to visit their Open House and Information Sessions which are held twice monthly. The schedule of these events is available online. In addition, the sections in the Student Handbook on Professional Development and Essential Functions are particularly important. Columbia's Occupational Therapy Program will inform applicants of their admission status in the spring semester of their junior year.

Questions? For further information please contact:

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Note: The prerequisites and required coursework on this sheet refer only to Columbia University. Other Occupational Therapy programs may have other requirements such as Chemistry or GRE. Please check other programs' websites for specific requirements.