Nature of Work:

Occupational therapists work with people who have difficulty coping with psychological or physiological dysfunction. Specifically, occupational therapists help individuals with mentally, physically, developmentally, or emotionally disabling conditions to develop, recover, and maintain daily-living and work skills. They not only help patients improve basic motor functions and reasoning abilities, they also help them compensate for permanent loss of function. They work to help patients lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives through the increase of strength, dexterity, and the ability to discern patterns.

An occupational therapist may practice in general hospitals, rehabilitation centers, pediatric or psychiatric hospitals, crippled children’s camps and schools, geriatric homes, sheltered workshops, home-care, and community-centered programs. The primary concern of the therapist is to develop or redevelop self-care, work, and leisure skills. Therapy involves retraining patients to overcome their disabilities through the activities of daily living and working.

Professional Training:

A degree in occupational therapy and successfully passing the national certification examination are required for work in the profession. A graduate degree is often required for teaching, research, or specialized programs.

Job Outlook:

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), “[e]mployment of occupational therapists is projected to grow 27 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.” The expansion of access to health insurance coverage due to federal health insurance reform, coupled with the aging of the baby boomer generation, will drive demand for occupational therapists. (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings:

In their May 2016 salary survey, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median annual wage for occupational therapists as $81,910, with the lowest 10 percent earning less than $54,200 and the top 10 percent earning more than $119,720. (See www.bls.gov)
Entry requirements vary according to the professional school. The chart below details the suggested path a student may take to complete the requirements for entry into the Occupational Therapy Program at Loma Linda University. Classes that are offered with multiple sections are listed in each quarter they are available. It is the students’ responsibility to contact the school of their choice & to meet the requirements for that school.

See the Undergraduate Bulletin for complete requirements.

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<th>Autumn</th>
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Total Credits Required:

English Requirements:
- Freshman
  - ENGL 121 & 122 – College Writing
  - ENGL 223 – Research Writing

Math Requirements:
- *MATH 106 – Introduction to Statistics

Notes:
+ Classes offered even years
- Classes offered odd years
* Beginning in August 2014, these courses must have been taken within 5 years prior to entry to Loma Linda University’s program.

A Bachelor’s degree of your choice (B.A. or B.S.) is required as well as these courses for acceptance into Loma Linda’s Medical Occupational Therapy program.

Loma Linda University also requires:
- A documented minimum of 40 hours of observation experience in an occupational therapy department or community service before acceptance.
- Mathematics or two years of high school math with a grade of C or better.
- Any student who has attended a Seventh-day Adventist college/university will be required to have religion courses.

C- grades will not be accepted for transfer credit at LLU. Admission is competitive so a 3.20 GPA or above is highly recommended.

If applying to a medical school other than Loma Linda University, the student should refer to the bulletin of that institution for specific entrance requirements. LLU generally requires 16 credits of religion for 4-year graduates from SDA institutions.