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), "employment of occupational therapists is projected to grow 24 percent from 2016 to 2026, 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 2017 salary survey, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median annual wage for occupational therapists as $83,200, with the lowest 10 percent earning less than $54,560 and the top 10 percent earning more than $120,440. (See www.bls.gov)

Note: 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.
The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete a pre-profession degree in Occupational Therapy. Cognates are listed in italics.

### Pre-requisites for LLU Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Winter Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>*Anatomy &amp; Physiology (BIOL 121)</td>
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<td>*Anatomy &amp; Physiology (BIOL 122)</td>
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<td>Developmental Psychology (PSYC 215)</td>
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<td>Medical Terminology (NBG 234)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Beginning in August 2014, these courses must have been taken within 5 years prior to entry to LLU’s program

+Offered even years only - Offered odd years only

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.
- 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.