

# Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy is the therapeutic use of self-care, work, and play activities to increase independent function, enhance development, and prevent disability. It may include adaptation of task or environment to achieve maximum independence and to enhance quality of life. Professionals in this field determine the extent of clients' abilities to provide self-care, to work and to play. Then with the client they plan personalized treatment programs based on therapeutic activities and ion. The baccalaureate degree program is designed to prepare the graduate to meet professional standards for occupational therapy practice. Students study physical, behavioral, and medical sciences and their application to the practice of occupational therapy.

## **Skills & Knowledge Developed in this Field of Study**

Skills developed include; Critical thinking, activity analysis, creativity; entry-level competence in the application of physical, behavioral, and medical sciences to the practice of occupational therapy. Graduates will be able to sit for the national certification examination.

## **Careers Specific to the Bachelor's Degree**

A graduate of the occupational therapy program is qualified to work as a registered occupational therapist in physical dysfunction, psychiatry, geriatrics, pediatrics, acute care, chronic care, school systems, industry, home care, and private practice. Occupational therapists can choose to work in mental health, pediatrics, gerontology, physical disabilities, or other specialty areas.

## **Other Career Possibilities with a Bachelor's Degree**

Some graduates work as medical equipment sales representatives. Industrial therapists help clients find and hold a job through arrangement of employment, planning work activities, and occupational progress evaluations.

## **Careers that Normally Require a Graduate Degree**

Supervision, management, teaching. All OT programs will move to entry-level at the master's degree by 2007.

## **Job Outlook**

Good; OT is a growing profession especially in community-based practice. Entry salary level is \$35,000 to \$42,000.