



# STEM Careers

## Occupational Therapist

**Job Description:** Assess, plan, and organize rehabilitative programs that restore or build daily living skills for persons with disabilities or developmental delays. Use therapeutic techniques, adapt the individual's environment, teach skills, and modify specific tasks that are difficult for the individual.

### What does an Occupational Therapist do?

- Test and evaluate patients' physical and mental abilities and analyze medical data to determine realistic rehabilitation goals for patients
- Plan and implement programs and social activities to help patients learn work or school skills and adjust to handicaps
- Select activities that will help individuals learn work and life-management skills within their limits of their physical and mental capabilities
- Evaluate patients' progress and prepare reports that detail progress
- Design, create, or request special supplies and equipment such as splints, braces, and computer-aided adaptive equipment
- Recommend changes in patients' work or living environments, consistent with their needs and capabilities

### Your Interests:

- Do you like to help others?
- Do you work well with others?
- Do you have good communication skills?
- Do you enjoy teaching and interacting with other people?

### Outlook: BRIGHT

Average Salary - \$41.14 hourly, \$85,570 annually

Projected Job Openings - 10,100 in the next 10 years

### Education/Program of Study:

- A master's degree is required, with specific occupational therapy schooling and testing.
- Degree paths include biology, psychology, and counseling