



Make today matter

As a healthcare profession, occupational therapy promotes health and well-being. It is the art and science of facilitating participation through occupations.

Selection

- Fifty (50) first-year students are selected annually.
- Only first-choice applicants are considered. Applicants in the designated categories who indicated the programme as their second choice will be considered once all the first-choice candidates have been placed.
- All applicants in the School Leavers categories must have a minimum MPS of 60.
- Conditional selection is based on the final Grade 11 results of the two categories (open and designated group) as indicated under *Faculty-specific admission regulations* on page 2 in this brochure.
- Candidates must maintain their Grade 11 averages (which they were conditionally selected on) in the final grade 12 school examination and ensure that the MPS does not drop by more than five points.



What does the programme entail?

The Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Pretoria embraces transformation and diversity and aims to be an outstanding internationally-respected department committed to excellence in research, social responsiveness and innovative teaching and learning.

Occupational therapists enable people of all ages with physical and mental impairments to lead meaningful and independent lives. Individuals with physical and mental health conditions and/or disabilities are treated to function independently/optimally in their occupations and specific contexts. People with loss of function due to disability and societal barriers are assisted by modifying their occupations or the environment to maintain their independence.



Who is the ideal candidate?

The ideal candidate must have the following characteristics:

- Good communication skills (written and verbal)
- Exceptional interpersonal skills
- Caring and empathetic
- Able to encourage others to develop their potential
- Creative and show initiative
- Problem solver
- Intellectual and practical aptitudes
- Strong self-esteem
- Well-balanced lifestyle
- High emotional intelligence
- Ability to work in a team



Structure of the programme

Core modules

- Occupational therapy
- Occupational science

Postgraduate studies

Postgraduate study offers increased occupational therapy knowledge and skills in mental health; physical conditions such as hand therapy and adult and paediatric neurology; vocational rehabilitation; education in occupational therapy; and areas of occupational therapy such as play, leisure, education/school, Activities of Daily Living (ADL)/ Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) and work.



What makes this programme unique?

Occupational therapy is an exciting career that offers numerous opportunities. It requires an adaptable and practical person with good problem-solving skills. A successful occupational therapist has good interpersonal skills and can approach diverse situations in a resourceful and creative manner.



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Career opportunities

Occupational therapists can work in the following areas:

Government and private hospitals

Industrial settings:
Rehabilitating workers who are disabled and advising on methods of preventing occupational injury

Institutions for people with disabilities (adults and children)

Legal settings:
Assessing the impact of disability for insurance purposes

Mental healthcare:
Preventative and promotive programmes from household to facilities, addressing overall wellbeing

Older persons residential facilities

Special schools for children with physical, mental health and learning disabilities

Universities training occupational therapists and conducting research on relevant issues

Urban and rural community health structures, clinics and households



‘The beauty of occupational therapy is that it can change one’s narrative of their life when they have written themselves off due to their physical and cognitive impairment. There is nothing more fulfilling than giving mortals hope again and restoring their quality of life. Occupational therapy is the

wave you do not want to miss if you have a passion for people. The seeds of making an indelible impact in people’s lives lie dormant within you.’

Thabang Rameetse

– Bachelor of Occupational Therapy



‘Occupational therapy is more than just a profession. It’s a lifestyle. It’s learning to see people for more than who they are on the outside and instead seeing them for who they have the potential to be.’

Michelle Botha – Bachelor of Occupational Therapy

Approximately 50 students graduate from this programme annually.

Minimum admission requirements

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2026			
	Achievement level			APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	
School of Healthcare Sciences				
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy [4 years]	4	4	4	30

For advice on a second-choice programme, please consult a Student Advisor. To make an appointment, send an email to carol.bosch@up.ac.za.

Selection is based on a candidates’ final Grade 11 examination results.

Careers: Occupational therapists, academics and researchers

Email healthsciences@up.ac.za



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Health Sciences

Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe
Lefapha la Disaense tša Maphelo

Minimum requirements for
applicants with a school
leaving certificate not issued
by Umalusi (South Africa)



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Refer to the International undergraduate prospectus at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission Information or [click here](#) for more information.

- The closing date for applications for programmes in this faculty is 30 June.
- Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into a programme.

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES Programmes	Minimum requirements for 2026									
	Achievement level									
	Compulsory subjects	GCSE #		HIGCSE NSSC HL	AS Level	A Level	IB		KOMBI ABITUR	KCSE
		The qualifications in the two columns below will be considered only for conditional admission. If final AS and/or A levels have been completed, these two columns will not apply. It can also not be used for final admission and/ or registration.			GCE CIE NSSC AS	GCE CIE CGCE UACE WAEC ZGCE	IB SL	IB HL		
		CIE	UK							
IGCSE LGCSE BGCSE EGCSE O Level NSSC OL CGCE UCE NECO WAEC WASSCE ZGCE		England Wales Northern Ireland Pearson Edexcel GCSE								
Bachelor of Dental Surgery	English	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery** [Also referred to as MBChB]	Mathematics	B	5	2	B	D	5	4	70-79%	B+
	Physics	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
	Chemistry	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Oral Hygiene										
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Physiotherapy	Mathematics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Radiography in Diagnostics	Physics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Dietetics	Chemistry	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Sports Science	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	Mathematics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	Physics/ Chemistry	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Clinical Medical Practice [Also referred to as BCMP]	combination or Biology*	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Nursing Science	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	Mathematics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	Biology	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+

English must be on the A and/or AS Level for final admission before registration.

* A PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY combination, or BIOLOGY and another subject on the A or AS Level

** Applicants who are not South African citizens and come from countries that have medical schools will not be considered for placement in the Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery programme [also referred to as MBChB], except where intergovernmental agreements are in place.