

## Health Science Cluster



*Planning, managing and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services and biotechnology research and development.*

**Data Sources**  
Bureau of Labor  
Statistics  
CareerInfoNet  
CareerClusters  
The College  
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# Occupational Therapists

*It takes enormous patience to work with the physically handicapped, the mentally ill, or anyone struggling with the tasks of daily life. But as an occupational therapist (OT), you can find great satisfaction in helping them live more independently. Whether you're teaching a stroke survivor to use a walker or modifying school equipment for a disabled child, one thing is certain: you'll make a difference.*

If you are interested in a career where you can help people lead independent lives, a career as an **occupational therapist** may be for you.

**Occupational therapists help people who have learning disabilities, physical handicaps, illnesses, and other conditions master everyday tasks, from shopping for groceries to walking with crutches.**

### **Are You Ready To...?**

- Discover each person's special needs
- Tailor an individualized plan for each patient
- Be patient, even when progress is slow
- Keep records of each client's activities and progress
- Come up with creative solutions to problems
- Work with a wide range of people

### **It Helps To Be...**

A creative, patient problem solver: progress can be painfully slow.

### **A Day In The Life...**

- Select therapy activities to fit patients' needs and capabilities.
- Monitor patients' performance in therapy activities, providing encouragement.
- Maintain and promote a positive attitude toward clients and their treatment programs.
- Aid patients in dressing and grooming themselves.

### **Salary and Opportunity in the Austin-area**

**Median Hourly Wage: \$35.90**

*That comes out to more than  
\$74,680 a year.*

**In 2016, we had  
376 Occupational Therapists.  
By 2026, we'll need 503.**

*Could you be one of the 127?*

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# Occupational Therapists

## **After High School...**

In addition to a high school diploma, many employers look for occupational therapists with a **master's degree**.



## **Top 5 Industries for Occupational Therapists**

1. Offices of Other Health Practitioners
2. General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
3. Elementary and Secondary Schools
4. Home Health Care Services
5. Specialty (except Psychiatric and Substance Abuse) Hospitals

**For more Career Profiles, visit our website:**

<http://www.wfscapitalarea.com/YouthServices/CareerPlanning.aspx>.

## **Related Majors**

- Athletic Training
- Exercise Science
- Gerontology
- Health Sciences, General
- Occupational Therapy
- Therapeutic Recreation

## **Related Industry Certifications**

- Low Vision Specialty
- Pelvic Muscle Dysfunction Biofeedback
- Registered Art Therapist
- Environmental Modification
- Certified Hand Therapist

## **Related Careers**

- Coaches and Scouts
- Medical and Public Health Social Workers
- Occupational Therapist Assistants
- Physical Therapists
- Recreational Therapists

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