PREPARATION FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (Tentative time-line)

- Choose a major such as Biology, Kinesiology, Psychology or Sociology
- Visit the CSUS pre-health Home Page: www.csus.edu/prehealth/index.html
- Most Occupational Therapy Programs are Master’s level programs and some are Doctoral level programs.
  - There are 7 accredited Master’s level programs in California (each with their own specific pre-requisites).
  - Nationally, there are 144 Master’s entry level OT programs, and 4 Doctoral entry level programs.
- Complete the pre-requisite courses for Occupational Therapy Programs
  - it is important to contact each school – the suggested required courses in this handout are what MOST schools require. Some schools may have additional requirements.
  - A minimum GPA of 3.00 is required by all schools
- Detailed information about specific occupational therapy schools and their prerequisites can be found at the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) website: http://www.aota.org/educate/schools
- Sign up for extracurricular activities such as internships, volunteer work and observational experiences (40-100 hours of volunteer work in Occupational Therapy is required)
- begin working on your personal essay
- Study for and take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE): www.ets.org/GRE
- Select schools
- Select faculty members that will write your letters of recommendation
  - Three letters are required, and one of those letters has to be from an Occupational Therapist.
- The Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) is the centralized application processing service.

Interested students can send questions regarding OT to: ASLASstudent@aota.org

Required Courses for MOST Occupational Therapy Schools:

**BIO 1:** Biodiversity, Evolution & Ecology  
**BIO 2:** Cells, Molecules & Genes  
**Bio 22:** Human Anatomy  
**Bio 131:** Systemic Physiology  
**STAT 1:** Introduction to Statistics  
**PSYCH 2:** Introduction to Psychology  
**PSYC 150:** Psychological aspects of aging (i.e. Developmental Psychology)  
**PSYC 168:** Abnormal Psychology  
**ENG 1A:** College composition  
**ENG 20:** College Composition  
**Medical Terminology**

Additional Courses Required by some schools:

**PHYS 5A:** General Physics I  
**Bio 123:** Neuroanatomy  
**ART 20A:** Beginning Drawing or **ART 50** or **Art 53** ceramics (skills courses)
PREPARATION FOR RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Most Respiratory Programs are a 2 year program, requiring a high school diploma.

* At the minimum, a Respiratory therapist will have an Associate Degree from an accredited Respiratory education program such as the program at American River College:

- **American River College Associate Degree Program in Respiratory Care**: www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Health_and_Education/Respiratory_Care.htm
  - Applications are available September 1 of each year and the deadline is the second Friday in October (has to be delivered in person)
  - A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 in the following required courses is needed (overall GPA of 2.0 in all college courses)
  - **REQUIRED COURSES** (* courses cannot be taken by Biological Sciences majors):
    - **Bio 25 and Bio 26**: Human Anatomy and Physiology
    - **Bio 39**: Microbiology
    - **PHYS 5A**: General Physics
    - **Medical terminology**
  - Questions can be emailed to: ARCRespCare@arc.losrios.edu

* Some Respiratory Therapy Programs (**Loma Linda University** in California) offer a Baccalaureate Degree option
  - **Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions**: www.llu.edu/allied-health/sahp/cardio/rc.page

* Some Respiratory Therapy Programs offer Master’s Programs (non in California)

A list of accredited schools can be found at the Commission Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) website: www.coarc.com