

## Occupational Therapy Timeline

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year

- Register for the Pre-Health Program.
- Attend the informational meetings for the Pre-Health Program.
- Make an appointment with the pre-health advisor to discuss how to sequence classes, experiences that will help you prepare for occupational therapy programs, and the different resources on campus.
- Investigate career information to identify what it means to be an occupational therapist and the admission requirements for OT school.
- Start taking the core courses that need to be completed before taking the GRE entrance exam required by the OTCAS. Focus on academic coursework and how to be a successful college student.
- Look for meaningful opportunities to become involved in research, volunteering, clubs, and mentoring.
- Start shadowing an occupational therapist in a field that interests you (hospital, clinic, nursing home, etc.)
- Start to develop relationships with faculty, staff advisors and faculty mentors at DePaul.
- **SUMMER: Work, volunteer, research, or intern in the health field.**
- **SUMMER: Take summer courses if desired or necessary.**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

- Attend the informational meetings for the Pre-Health Program.
- Meet with the pre-health advisor to make sure you're progressing through your requirements.
- Continue taking the core courses that need to be completed before taking the GRE entrance exam required by Occupational Therapy Programs. Focus on coursework and achieving a high GPA.
- Continue to investigate the career information to identify the admission requirements for OT school.
- Look for opportunities to be involved in meaningful activities (volunteering, research, etc.) that will strengthen your application.
- Attend local graduate school fairs and open houses.
- Apply for research opportunities that you can participate in over the school year or summer.
- The Office of Advising and Student Services will automatically connect you to a faculty mentor on the Pre-Health Advising Committee (PAC) after you've earned at least a C grade in each general biology and general chemistry course.
- **SUMMER: Work or volunteer in the health field.**
- **SUMMER: Participate in summer enrichment, research, or internship program.**
- **SUMMER: Learn more about the GRE and research GRE prep courses opportunities.**
- **SUMMER: Familiarize yourself with the Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy (OTCAS).**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Year (or the year prior to applying)

- Meet with pre-health advisor and PAC faculty mentor to make sure all coursework is on track.
- Begin compiling a list of specific OT programs that will meet your professional objectives.
- Complete pre-optometry coursework that is required by OT schools and covered on the GRE.
- Make sure you have established well maintained relationships with your staff advisors, professors, PAC faculty mentor, and healthcare professionals. Start to consider from whom you can receive letters of recommendations.
- Look for opportunities to continue to be involved (volunteering, shadowing, etc.) that will strengthen your application.
- Attend a personal statement writing workshop and begin writing your statement early. Be prepared to make multiple drafts, as this statement is critical in the review of your application.
- If you are prepared and ready, register for the Graduate Records Exam (GRE).
- Take the Graduate Records Exam (GRE).
- Meet with your PAC faculty mentor to ensure you are ready to submit your application through OTCAS.
- Prepare a “plan b” if you are not admitted to the schools of your choice.
- **SUMMER: If you are intending to start your chosen program immediately following graduation, you should begin the application process, including requesting letters of recommendation (LORs) from your professors. The OTCAS will open up early July.**
- **SUMMER: Double check dates and deadlines and review, edit, and submit OTCAS application early.**
- **SUMMER: Submit transcripts, complete supplemental applications, and contact those who will be submitting LORs for you to check on progress.**

### 4<sup>th</sup> Year

- Prepare for interviews by participating in a mock interview.
- Meet with your PAC faculty mentor to discuss status of your application.
- Continue to maintain a strong GPA.
- If admitted, make final decisions about your choice of school and notify schools you will not be attending.
- If admitted to an Occupational Therapy program, apply for financial aid (FAFSA) by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- If admitted, pay seat deposit for the institution of your choice.
- Let the pre-health advisor know what schools you were admitted to and which school you will matriculate.