

# Careers in the Licensed Professions

## Occupational Therapist & Occupational Therapy Assistant

**Occupational therapists** (OT) help people with injuries or disabilities restore or improve their physical abilities and adapt to their surroundings. Examples of services:

- evaluate patients' abilities and develop treatment programs to help them accomplish daily activities at home and work
- work with patients to carry out their rehabilitation programs
- assist with modifications of the physical environment and/or use of specialized equipment (e.g., to support accessibility)

**Occupational therapy assistants** (OTA) provide services under the supervision of an OT or physician.

### Education

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| <p><b>OT:</b> Master's or higher degree in a <a href="#">Department-registered</a> occupational therapy licensure program, or equivalent.</p> | <p><b>OTA:</b> Associate degree in a <a href="#">Department-registered</a> occupational therapy assistant licensure program, or equivalent.</p> |
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### Examination

Examinations of the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy

- ▶ Visit the [Office of the Professions](#) for a listing of all options and requirements.

### Video



### Salary and Projected Growth

- OT salary range: \$ 62,860-\$103,440
- OTA salary range: \$46,910-\$70,800
- Projected growth: much faster than average

### Where Could I Work?

- Hospitals and nursing homes
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Schools
- Home care agencies

### Your Interests and Abilities

- Health-related sciences
- Helping people affected by injury or disability
- Mental and behavioral health

### Professional Skills

- Concern for others
- Dependability
- Patience
- Communication

### What Interests You?

Match your interests and personality to career options! Explore a free career tool at [mynextmove.org/explore/ip](https://mynextmove.org/explore/ip)

**Tip:** try searching for mentoring programs—talk to an occupational therapist about what they do and how they got started!