

## Recruitment Hotsheet – Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy, which made *U.S. News & World Report's* list of “Best Careers” in 2011, helps patients improve their ability to perform tasks in living and working environments. Occupational therapists work with individuals who suffer from a mentally, physically, developmentally or emotionally disabling condition. The minimum requirement for entry into the field is typically a master’s degree (or higher degree) in occupational therapy. Recent AOTA surveys indicate that 92% of practitioners are female, more than three quarters (85%) are employed full-time in the profession and the median level of professional experience is 13 years. Occupational therapists held about 100,300 jobs in 2010, with a median annual wage of \$64,722.

### [AOTA Recent Workforce Survey Results](#)

### Employment Trends

Growing much faster than the average for all occupations, employment of occupational therapists is expected to increase 26% between 2008 and 2018, in part due to the increasing elderly population, which drives the demand for occupational therapy services. The largest number of occupational therapist jobs was in ambulatory healthcare services, which employed about 29% of occupational therapists. Other major employers were hospitals, offices of other health practitioners (including offices of occupational therapists), public and private educational services, and nursing care facilities. Some occupational therapists were employed by home healthcare services, outpatient care centers, offices of physicians, individual and family services, community care facilities for the elderly and government agencies. Job opportunities should be good for licensed occupational therapists in all settings, particularly in acute hospital, rehabilitation and orthopedic environments, because the elderly receive most of their treatment in these settings.

### Top Markets

1. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ
2. Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI
3. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA
4. Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH
5. Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD

### Top Programs\*

[Boston University](#)

[Washington University in St. Louis](#)

[University of Southern California](#)

[University of Illinois – Chicago](#)

[Tufts University-Boston School of Occupational Therapy](#)

\*Top Graduate Schools for Occupational Therapy

### Media Spotlight: Blogs

[Advance for Occupational Therapy Practitioners](#)

[Occupational Therapy Notes](#)

[TechnOT](#)

### Online Networks

[Facebook Occupational Therapy Association](#)

[LinkedIn Occupational Therapist Networking Group](#)

[OT Advantage](#)

[OT Exchange](#)

[OT Connections](#)

[OT Plan](#)

### E-Newsletters

[Advance for Occupational Therapy Practitioners E-Newsletter](#)

[AOTA's 1-Minute Update E-Newsletter \(members only\)](#)

[Put Me Back Together](#)

[Rehab Management's Rehab Today](#)

[Today in OT E-Zines](#)

### Upcoming Events

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine – Annual Meeting, Oct 11-15, 2011 – Atlanta GA

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine – Mid Year Meeting, Apr 2012 – more info TBA

92nd Annual American Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Apr 26-29, 2012 – Indianapolis IN