



SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY
CAREER SERVICES

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

MAJOR CAREER GUIDE

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ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Follow this link to the Salem State University Occupational Therapy home page. Here you will find program information, degree options, course listings, events information and much more:

<https://www.salemstate.edu/academics/college-health-and-human-services/occupational-therapy>

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Are you an Occupational Therapy major or are you considering Occupational Therapy as a major? Follow the link below to the “What Can I Do With My Major?” resource on the Salem State University Career Services web site:

<https://elearning.salemstate.edu/courses/939337/pages/what-can-you-do-with-your-major>

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

As in any profession, staying connected to professionals in your field is vital. Below are links to professional associations for Occupational Therapy professionals. Stay up to date with industry trends, connect with fellow Occupational Therapy professionals and utilize resources for job searching:

[American Occupational Therapy Association](#)

[Massachusetts Associations for Occupational Therapy](#)

[American Occupational Therapy Foundation](#)

[American Society of Hand Therapists](#)

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWING

Informational interviewing is a method of gathering information about career options, industries and employers. It is an opportunity to learn about a particular job from someone already in the field. It is *not* a job interview, but it can help you learn about job opportunities and build your network for when the job search comes. This is an ideal chance to help you gain a more thorough understanding of a particular industry or job. It’s also a great way to determine “is this what I want to do?” and to learn about different paths others have taken to get where they are.

JOB SHADOWING

Another way to gain access and information to your industry of choice is by job shadowing. Job shadowing is an opportunity to follow a professional in your field for an agreed upon amount of time. Typically, job shadow experiences will last anywhere from one day to one week. Much like an informational interview, this is your opportunity to see firsthand a “day in the life” of a professional.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is another great way to learn about what to expect when working in your industry. Similar to a job shadow, you will be able to see a “day in the life” of a professional while also contributing some of your own skills or services. Volunteering can give you a chance to gain new expertise and help you narrow down your specific interests in the field. Follow the links below to help you identify current volunteer opportunities:

<http://volunteer.nsuw.org/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Occupational Therapy licensure Information

- <http://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/State-Policy/Licensure/How-To.aspx>

Bureau of Labor Statistics information on Occupational Therapy Jobs

- <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Occupational-therapists.htm>

SAMPLE RESUME

JOHN JONES

123 Main Street, Apt. 101
Danvers, MA 01923
Mobile: 202-555-1234
johnjones@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Occupational Health Studies, May 20XX

Salem State University, Salem, MA
GPA of 3.6

Associate of Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant, December 20XX

North Shore Community College, Danvers, MA

RELEVANT COURSE WORK

Perceptual and Cognitive Disabilities
Conditions and Pathologies
OT Analysis and Intervention

Theoretical Principles of Occupational Therapy
Clinical Reasoning & Professional Judgment

EXPERIENCE

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, January 20XX- Present

Therapy Resources Management, Ipswich, MA

- Provide skilled occupational, client-centered therapy services to long term care and short-term post-acute care residents under the supervision of an OTR/L and in collaboration with entire rehabilitation team.
- Provide individual therapeutic interventions to promote clients' participation and rehabilitation in all areas of occupation including; use of therapeutic exercise/activities, teaching and assisting in use of adaptive equipment, energy conservation techniques, promoting activities to increase clients quality of life, caregivers' education for implementing functional maintenance program, and daily use of therapeutic use of self.
- Plan and implement groups for short term adult psychiatric facility. Focus is on education and communication for clients struggling with opiate addiction, suicidal tendencies, mental health and medication and substance use and abuse.

Occupational Therapy Intern, June 20XX-December 20XX

Supplemental Health Care, Woburn, MA

- Worked with recovering stroke patients on a daily basis by administering physician-prescribed treatments, including assisting in fine motor skills, walking, and other life functioning skills
- Assisted in developing at-home programs for patients to continue exercises and development of motor skills, allowing patients to return home in a shorter amount of time

SAMPLE COVER LETTER

JOHN JONES

123 Main Street, Apt. 101
Danvers, MA 01923
Mobile: 202-555-1234
johnjones@gmail.com

Date (i.e. January 1, 20XX)

John Smith
Salem Occupational Therapy
57 Highland Ave
Salem, Ma 01970

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am applying for the position of Occupational Therapy Assistant recently advertised on your web site. As my resume indicates, I recently worked as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant. I have completed my Bachelor of Science in Occupational Health Studies from Salem State University and believe that my skills and experiences make me a qualified candidate for the Occupational Therapy Assistant position.

Your advertisement specified a need for someone with experience working in the home health care setting and the ability to collaborate with partners at outpatient clinics and rehabilitation hospitals. While working as an Occupational Therapy Assistant, I was able to develop a teamwork approach by collaborating with the rehabilitation hospital. As a result of my work at Supplemental Health Care, I have developed a level of patience needed to succeed in this type of role and the skills to appropriately support patients in a home health occupational therapy setting. My strong communication skills will also be a benefit while working in the Occupational Therapy Assistant position at the Salem Occupational Therapy.

I appreciate your time and look forward to talking with you further about the position of Occupational Therapy Assistant. I welcome the opportunity to further discuss my qualifications and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Jones

Enc: Resume

SAMPLE COMPANIES

Aegies Therapies
AllStar Therapy
Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital
Communicative Health Care Associates
Harbor Health Services
Innovative Paradigms
Ivy Street School
Kennedy-Donovan Center, Inc.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Nashoba Valley Medical Center
New Hampshire Hand Therapy Center
Project CHILD
St. Elizabeth's Medical Center
The Institute of Professional Practices, Inc.
Vinfen Corporation