

SAMPLE HEALTHCARE CAREER PATHWAY: Patient Care Jobs - Occupational Therapy

This is one of many ways to enter Rhode Island's healthcare industry and move up through patient care jobs. You may enter or exit this pathway at any point.

Click on a job to learn more about:

- Wages
- How to prepare
- Education and training programs
- Exploring more options
- Needed skills and abilities



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Work Experience

Exercise Technician



Job Overview

Sample job titles: Exercise Technician, Physical Fitness Technician

Job summary: Implements and monitors individualized exercise programs for patients and/or clients.

Job Outlook

RI median wage:	\$22.45/hr	National median wage:	\$15.25/hr
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RI wages:	\$16.89-\$29.05/hr	National wages:	Not applicable
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RI percent change in jobs through 2020:	53%	National percent change in jobs through 2020:	13%
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RI job openings:	25/year	National job openings:	3350/year
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Is this a high-demand job?	Yes
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How to Prepare

Education: High school diploma or equivalent, and short term on-the-job training

Local training programs: Not applicable. Employer provides the short term on-the-job training.

Local apprenticeship options: None

National Career Readiness Certificate level: Silver

The NCRC is being piloted on a limited basis and may not apply to all employment situations.

First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/Basic Life Support (BLS)

- Provider: American Heart Association
 - Website: www.heart.org/findacourse
 - Contact: 401-228-2320
- Provider: American Red Cross
 - Website: www.redcross.org/lp/take-a-class
 - Contact: 401-831-7700

None

Licenses:

This information is from the list of Rhode Island Licensed Occupations at <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/jobseeker/license.htm>. Licensure requirements may vary by state.

Explore More Options

- Similar jobs:**
- Fitness Instructor
 - Physical Therapy Assistant
 - Occupational Therapy Assistant
 - Physical Therapist
 - Occupational Therapist
 - Athletic Trainer
 - Exercise Physiologist

Find local jobs and internships:

- Visit the EmployRI job and internship search at <https://www.employri.org/jobbanks/>
- Visit job listings for local hospitals and fitness clubs

Find jobs throughout the US:

Visit the CareerOneStop job search at <http://www.careeronestop.org/JobSearch/>

Additional Job Details

- Tasks:**
- Demonstrate how to carry out various exercises
 - Watch patients/clients do exercises and correct techniques when needed
 - Monitor progress
 - Provide emergency first aid if needed

- Knowledge:**
- High school diploma or equivalent
 - Training that may have been obtained through participation in formal fitness training and on-the-job training
 - Job advancement may require additional postsecondary education and certifications

- Skills:**
- Customer service skills
 - Listening skills
 - Motivational skills
 - Physical fitness problem solving skills
 - Communication skills

- Abilities:**
- Must be able to physically perform the exercises being taught
 - Ability to communicate directions clearly to patient/client and supervisor in written form and verbally
 - Ability to access patient/client skill level and capacity

- Technology:**
- Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, and Outlook
 - Specialized computerized equipment

Occupational Therapy Assistant



Job Overview

Sample job titles: Occupational Therapy Assistant

Job summary: Occupational therapy assistants help patients develop, recover and improve the skills needed for daily living and working. Occupational therapy assistants are directly involved in providing therapy to patients and work under the direction of occupational therapists.

Job Outlook

RI median wage:	\$24.40/hr	National median wage:	\$23.53/hr
RI wages:	\$18.22-\$29.13/hr	National wages:	\$15.85-\$35.15/hr
RI percent change in jobs through 2020:	45%	National percent change in jobs through 2020:	41%
RI job openings:	5/year	National job openings:	1,590/year
Is this a high-demand job?	Yes		

How to Prepare

Associate in Applied Science degree

Education:

Occupational therapy assistants are required to graduate from an accredited program to be able to apply for licensure. The individual who successfully completes these courses receives an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree and is eligible to sit for the national certification examination for occupational therapy assistants. An individual must successfully pass the certification examination in order to apply for licensure to practice as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant in Rhode Island. State licensure requirements may vary state to state.

Local training programs:

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

- Provider: Community College of Rhode Island
- Type of certificate/degree awarded: Associate in Applied Science, 15 month training following completion of general education requirements
- Address: Newport County Campus, 1 John H. Chafee Blvd., Newport, RI 02840
- Website: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/wio/Prog11/CCRlocctherapist.pdf>
- Contact: 401-851-1672

Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology

- Provider: New England Institute of Technology

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- Type of certificate/degree awarded: Associate in Science, 60 weeks over 18 months
- Address: East Greenwich Campus, 1408 Division Road, East Greenwich, RI 02818
- Website: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/wio/Prog11/NEITOccuTherapy.pdf>
- Contact: 401-739-5000

Local apprenticeship options: None

National Career Readiness Certificate level: Silver
The NCRC is being piloted on a limited basis and may not apply to all employment situations.

Certifications: Any applicant seeking licensure as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant in this state must:

- a) be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- b) be of good moral character;
- c) have successfully completed the academic requirements of an education program in occupational therapy accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education or such other accrediting agency as may be approved by the Board;
- d) have successfully completed a period of supervised fieldwork experience arranged by the recognized educational institution where he or she met the academic requirements;
- e) for an occupational therapy assistant, a minimum of twelve (12) weeks is required;
- f) have successfully passed the Registered or National Certification Examination for Occupational Therapy Assistants of the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) or other occupational therapy certification examination as approved by the Board.

Licenses: Licensure is required to practice as an occupational therapy assistant in RI.
Personal requirements, education and experience, reciprocity, examinations and fee information can be found on the RI Board of Health website at <http://www.health.ri.gov/licenses/healthcare/index.php>

Rules and regulations regarding licensing occupational therapists can be found on the RI Secretary of State website at <http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/released/pdf/DOH/4838.pdf>

* Licensure requirements may vary by state.*

Explore More Options

Similar jobs: Data not available

Find local jobs and internships: Visit the EmployRI job and internship search at <https://www.employri.org/jobbanks/>

Find jobs throughout the US: Visit the CareerOneStop job search at <http://www.careeronestop.org/JobSearch/>

Additional Job Details

- Select therapy activities to fit patients' needs and capabilities
- Observe and record patients' progress, attitudes, and behavior, and maintain this information in client records
- Communicate and collaborate with other healthcare professionals involved with the care of a patient
- Maintain and promote a positive attitude toward clients and their treatment programs
- Monitor patients' performance in therapy activities, providing encouragement
- Instruct, or assist in instructing, patients and families in home programs, basic living skills, or the care and use of adaptive equipment
- Implement, or assist occupational therapists with implementing, treatment plans designed to help clients function independently
- Evaluate the daily living skills or capacities of physically, developmentally, or emotionally disabled clients
- Aid patients in dressing and grooming themselves
- Report to supervisors, verbally or in writing, on patients' progress, attitudes, and behavior

Tasks:

Knowledge:

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- **Psychology** — Knowledge of human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders
 - **Education and Training** — Knowledge of principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects
 - **English Language** — Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar
 - **Therapy and Counseling** — Knowledge of principles, methods, and procedures for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of physical and mental dysfunctions, and for career counseling and guidance
 - **Customer and Personal Service** — Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.
 - **Medicine and Dentistry** — Knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptoms, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures.
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Skills:

- **Reading Comprehension** – Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents
 - **Active Listening** – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate and not interrupting at inappropriate times
 - **Judgment and Decision Making** – Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one
 - **Social Perceptiveness** – Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do
 - **Speaking** – Talking to others to convey information effectively
 - **Time Management** – Managing one's own time and the time of others
 - **Writing** – Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience
 - **Monitoring** – Monitoring and assessing performance of yourself, other individuals or organizations to make improvement or take corrective action.
 - **Service Orientation** – Actively looking for ways to help people
 - **Coordination** – Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions
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Abilities:

- **Oral Comprehension** — Ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences
 - **Oral Expression** — Ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand
 - **Problem Sensitivity** — Ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem
 - **Written Comprehension** — Ability to read and understand information and ideas presented in writing
 - **Speech Clarity** — Ability to speak clearly so others can understand you
 - **Written Expression** — Ability to communicate information and ideas in writing so others will understand
 - **Deductive Reasoning** — Ability to apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense
 - **Inductive Reasoning** — Ability to combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship among seemingly unrelated events)
 - **Information Ordering** — Ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations)
 - **Near Vision** — Ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer)
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Technology:

- **Accounting software** — Billing software, bookkeeping software; Fifth Walk BillingTracker, financial record software
 - **Computer based training software** — BrainTrain IVA+Plus, language arts educational software, math educational software
 - **Data base user interface and query software** — Database software, dBASE, FileMaker Pro software, Microsoft Access
 - **Medical software** — BrainTrain Captain's Log, Laboratory information system LIS software, TheraClin Systems iMAPR, Visual Health Information VHI PC-Kits
 - **Spreadsheet software** — Microsoft Excel
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Job Overview

Sample job titles: Occupational Therapist

Job summary:

Occupational therapists treat ill, injured or disabled patients through the therapeutic use of everyday activities. They help these patients recover, develop and improve the skills needed for daily living and working.

Job Outlook

RI median wage:	\$36.30/hr	National median wage:	\$ 36.25/hr
RI wages:	\$27.71.-\$44.51/hr	National wages:	\$32.02-\$40.11/hr
RI percent change in jobs through 2020:	39%	National percent change in jobs through 2020:	29%
RI job openings:	Data not available	National job openings:	Data not available
Is this a high-demand job?	Yes		

How to Prepare

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) - Masters degree program recommended for students who have completed a BA/BS degree.

Education:

- Program length: 2 years
- Professional schools' organization: AOTA (American Occupational Therapy Association) - <http://www.aota.org>
- Application service: School specific application and admissions procedures
- Academic Admission Requirements A BA/BS degree including a minimum of 12 credits in social sciences. Also Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, Statistics, Abnormal Psychology and Developmental or Child Psychology.
- Admission exam: GRE (Graduate Record Exam) - <http://gre.org>
- Personal attributes and experiences: Most OT programs require experience in health care or other related fields

Local training programs:

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

- Provider: New England Institute of Technology
- Type of certificate/degree awarded: Master of Science, training takes 10 quarters
- Website: <http://www.neit.edu/Programs/Masters-Degree/Occupational-Therapy>
- Contact: 401-467-7744

Local apprenticeship options: None

National Career Readiness Certificate level: Platinum
The NCRC is being piloted on a limited basis and may not apply to all employment situations.

Certifications: Any applicant seeking licensure as an occupational therapist in this state must:

- be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- be of good moral character;
- have successfully completed the academic requirements of an education program in occupational therapy accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education or such other accrediting agency as may be approved by the Board;
- have successfully completed a period of supervised fieldwork experience arranged by the recognized educational institution where he or she met the academic requirements;
- for an occupational therapist, a minimum of twenty-four (24) weeks of supervised fieldwork experience is required;
- have successfully passed the National Certification Examination for Occupational Therapists or other occupational therapy certification examination as approved by the Board.

Licenses: Licensure is required to practice as an occupational therapist in RI.

Personal requirements, education and experience, reciprocity, examinations and fee information can be found on the RI Board of Health website at <http://www.health.ri.gov/licenses/healthcare/index.php>

Rules and regulations regarding licensing occupational therapists can be found on the RI Secretary of State website at <http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/released/pdf/DOH/4838.pdf>

Licensure requirements may vary by state.

Explore More Options

Similar jobs:

- Physical Therapist
- Recreational Therapist
- Respiratory Therapist

Find local jobs and internships: Visit the EmployRI job and internship search at <https://www.employri.org/jobbanks/>

Find jobs throughout the US: Visit the CareerOneStop job search at <http://www.careeronestop.org/JobSearch/>

Additional Job Details

Tasks

- Complete and maintain necessary records
- Consult with rehabilitation team to select activity programs and coordinate occupational

therapy with other therapeutic activities

- Evaluate patients' progress and prepare reports that detail progress
 - Plan, organize, and conduct occupational therapy programs in hospital, institutional, or community settings to help rehabilitate those impaired because of illness, injury or psychological or developmental problems
 - Recommend changes in patients' work or living environments, consistent with their needs and capabilities
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Knowledge:

- **Therapy and Counseling** - Knowledge of principles, methods, and procedures for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of physical and mental dysfunctions, and for career counseling and guidance
 - **Psychology** - Knowledge of human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders
 - **Sociology and Anthropology** - Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, societal trends and influences, human migrations, ethnicity, cultures and their history and origins
 - **Education and Training** - Knowledge of principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects
 - **Medicine and Dentistry** - Knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptoms, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures
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Skills:

- **Reading Comprehension** - Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents
 - **Active Listening** - Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times
 - **Speaking** - Talking to others to convey information effectively
 - **Social Perceptiveness** - Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do
 - **Critical Thinking** - Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems
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Abilities:

- **Concern for others** – Being sensitive to others' needs and feelings and being understanding and helpful on the job
 - **Integrity** – Being honest and ethical
 - **Dependability** – Being reliable, responsible and dependable, fulfilling all obligations
 - **Adaptability/Flexibility** – Being open to change and to considerable variety in the workplace
 - **Self Control** – Maintaining composure, keeping emotions in check, controlling anger and avoiding aggressive behavior, even in difficult situations
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Technology:

- Accounting software — Billing software, bookkeeping software, Fifth Walk BillingTracker, financial record software
 - Computer based training software — BrainTrain IVA+Plus, language arts educational
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software, math educational software

- Data base user interface and query software — Database software, dBASE, FileMaker Pro software, Microsoft Access
 - Medical software — BrainTrain Captain's Log, Laboratory information system LIS software, TheraClin Systems iMAPR, Visual Health Information VHI PC-Kits
 - Spreadsheet software — Microsoft Excel
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