

SUMMER SPRINGBOARD
Look Inward. Go Upward.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INFOSHEET

New student admissions for Summer 2027 are open.

Program Highlights

- Step into the role of an occupational therapist as you analyze everyday activities and adapt them for clients of all ages
- Experience daily tasks with simulated limitations and try hands-on OT activities and assessments
- Visit a pediatric therapy gym and an outpatient therapy clinic to see OT in action
- Design, build, and demonstrate your own low-tech adaptive equipment for a client case study

2027 Dates

Barnard College, Columbia University

- Session 1: July 5 - July 17*
- Session 2: July 18 - July 30

*Sessions starting July 5th will start on Monday, not Sunday (due to the holiday). During the first week, classes meet Tuesday through Friday, followed by Monday through Friday in week two.

2-Week Course

This is a two-week program where you'll focus on one course for the entire duration.

Academic Program Overview

Most people have never heard of occupational therapy until they or someone they love needs it. Occupational therapists help people of all ages get back to the everyday activities, or "occupations," that matter most to them, such as a child learning to hold a pencil, a stroke survivor cooking breakfast again or an older adult staying safe at home. To do that, OTs look at the whole person, including their body, mind, environment, culture and goals.

In this course, students explore OT in pediatrics, mental health, rehabilitation, aging and community practice. They try everyday tasks with simulated limitations, rotate through pediatric fine motor stations, measure range of motion and test assistive technology. The course ends with a final project where each student works from a client case study to design, build and demonstrate their own low-tech adaptive equipment.

Excursions

Students will see occupational therapy in action. They will visit a pediatric therapy gym, where therapists use play, movement, and sensory activities to help children build skills, and an outpatient therapy clinic, where OTs help adults recover from injuries and return to daily life. Students will also hear from occupational therapists about their training and careers.

Instructors

Barnard/Columbia – Christine James, OTR/L

Christine James works with clients at every stage of life, helping young children build the skills they need for school and adults recover hand function after injury. A licensed occupational therapist, she has practiced in school-based pediatrics, home-based early intervention and outpatient hand therapy. Christine earned her Master's degree in Occupational Therapy from New York University, where she took on leadership and teaching roles that sparked her love of mentoring. In the classroom, she brings real patient cases and hands-on activities that show students how OTs solve everyday problems for the people they serve.

Tuition Information:

Apply by November 30 to lock in the lowest tuition of the year. Tuition increases on December 1.

Residential Students:

- **Includes:** all meals, lodging, excursions, academic course and weekend excursions
- **Excludes**: optional airport pickup and drop off service (available for an additional fee)
- **Tuition**: $5,998

Commuter Students:

- **Includes:** lunch, academic course, excursions, programming from 9am to 5pm, Monday-Friday
- **Excludes:** lodging, breakfast, dinner and weekend excursions
  - Weekend excursions can be added on for $125 per day
- **Tuition**: $3,298

Supplements:

- **Application fee**: Starting at $99 (mandatory, non-refundable)
- Occupational Therapy supplement: $250 tuition (mandatory)
- **Tuition Protection Plan**: Allows for cancellation for any reason up until the day of the program. Click here for more info.

Summer Springboard programs are not run by our campus partners (with the exception of Cal Poly, University of Washington Foster School of Business, and NYSID which are run in partnership with SSB). Universities and their affiliated departments and partners do not control and are not responsible or liable in any manner for any part of the Summer Springboard program.

Course Structure

There are nine 3-hour class sessions over the two-week course. During week one, students have class from 9am-12pm Monday - Friday. During week two, students have class from 9am-12pm Monday through Thursday. Afternoons in both weeks are dedicated to students' preferred College Readiness Workshops (CRW), True You, and Academics in Action, with Academics in Action including academic excursions, guest speakers, and course-related activities, such as an instructor-led project or student-led, independent study.

Typical Schedule

8AM	Breakfast
9AM	Academic Course / Commuter Student Arrival
12PM	Lunch
1:30PM	Academics in Action or Recreational Activity
3:30PM	CRWs, True You, or Academics in Action
5-5:15PM	Commuter Student Departure
6PM	Dinner
7PM	Clubs
10:30PM	Night Checks

Schedule above is a sampler; real schedules may vary based on program and academic track.

More info on Airport Transfer

More info on Unaccompanied Minor Service

Apply Now!

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