

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Program Overview

The Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program is designed to prepare individuals to function as entry-level certified occupational therapy assistants working in partnership with the occupational therapist. OTA graduates can find employment in a variety of healthcare and human service settings including hospitals, clinics, extended care facilities, schools, and specialized community care and wellness programs.

The OTA program has applied for accreditation and has been granted Developing Program Status (August 2011) by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. Once accreditation of the program has been obtained, graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). Successful certification permits the graduate to apply for licensure as required by the State of Illinois. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

What Does An Occupational Therapy Assistant Do?

Occupational therapy is a profession that is essential to the promotion of health and wellness. Occupational therapy

assistants, under the supervision of the occupational therapist, plan and implement goal-directed therapeutic occupations uniquely designed to help patients and clients achieve optimal function in their daily life roles. In response to the effects of disabling disease or disorder, the OTA also may facilitate an individual's level of functional independence by modifying or re-designing any of the multiple environments in which patients and clients live and work.

What is the Program Like?

The program highlights skills instruction in the classroom enhanced by hands-on learning experiences in health and wellness settings. Emphasis is on development of real life problem-solving skills needed for the occupational therapy assistant to enhance meaningful active participation in the lives of people. Students' expertise is advanced through field observations and community involvement, fieldwork training experiences in a wide range of facilities and programs, participation in professional organizations and activities, and mentoring faculty. Students will work with experienced instructors, both COTAs and OTs who work as a team and model the collaboration desired between practitioners.

The primary purpose of an Associate in Applied Science degree is to prepare students for employment. The AAS degree is not designed specifically for transfer; however, there are opportunities to apply some coursework or the whole degree to a bachelor's degree program. For more information, see an academic advisor and the Occupational Therapy Assistant department chair.

Requirements for the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Occupational Therapy Assistant

Curriculum: OCC 305	Credit Hours	
General Education Core		
Communications	6	(3) ENG 151 Composition I (3) SPE 151 Intro. to Speech

Humanities & Fine Arts 1 course required	3	Humanities <i>Select from the following prefixes or course numbers:</i> ENG (does not include: 105, 151, 152, 088-099) FRE GER (3) JRN 152 Intro to Mass Communication (3) JRN 155 Newswriting (3) JRN 165 Intro to Broadcasting (3) JRN 170 Feature Writing PHI (4) SPA 151 Elementary Spanish I (4) SPA 152 Elementary Spanish II (4) SPA 251 Intermediate Spanish I (4) SPA 252 Intermediate Spanish II (3) SPE 155 Interpersonal Communication (3) SPE 161 Small Group Communication	Humanities cont'd. (3) SPE 251 Intercultural Communication (3) SPE 265 Fundamentals of Oral Interpretation Fine Arts <i>Select from the following prefixes or course numbers:</i> ART (does not include: 166, 290, 299) (3) AET 141 Interior Design I (3) AET 142 History of Interiors (3) AET 241 Interior Design II (3) DGM 167 Graphic Design I (3) DGM 168 Computer Art I (3) JRN 180 Intro to Film MUS (does not include: 100, 104, 160, 161, 162, 201-218) THE
Mathematics, Physical, or Life Sciences	4	(4) BIO 263 Anatomy & Physiology I	
Social and Behavioral Sciences	3	(3) PSY 151 Introduction to Psychology	
Support Core	8	(4) BIO 264 Anatomy & Physiology II (1) HCE 111 Information Literacy & Healthcare	(3) PSY 250 Human Development Over the Lifespan
OTA Core	48	(3) OTA 110 Foundations of Occupational Therapy (3) OTA 120 Therapeutic Methods I (3) OTA 130 Occupations Across the Lifespan (2) OTA 140 Dynamics of Human Movement (3) OTA 150 Conditions Disrupting Participation (5) OTA 160 Psychosocial Rehabilitation Theory & Methods (3) OTA 170 Therapeutic Methods II	(5) OTA 210 Physical Theory & Rehab Methods (4) OTA 220 Therapeutic Methods III (3) OTA 230 Professional Analysis in Practice (2) OTA 240 Health Services Management (2) OTA 250 Professional Practice Seminar (5) OTA 260 Fieldwork Level IIA (5) OTA 265 Fieldwork Level IIB
Total Degree Credits	72		

Other AAS Graduation Requirements:

- 2.0 minimum cumulative GPA at MCC upon completion of program
- 15 semester hours of program specific coursework taken at MCC
- Completion of Intent to Graduate form
- Completion of end-of-program assessment as directed by this department

NOTE: Students must complete Level II fieldwork (OTA 260 and OTA 265) within 18 months following completion of the didactic portion of the program.

For more information, contact the department chair: (815) 455-8710.