

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

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Occupational Therapy is an evidence-based, science-driven profession that helps others increase participation and independence in everyday life activities (occupations) in all of their environments (home, work, school, community, etc.). Occupational therapists (OTs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) help people of all ages through therapeutic use of activities. Under the supervision of an OT, an OTA will develop and provide therapeutic strategies that will help their clients gain the physical, cognitive, psychological and developmental skills necessary for everyday life. They also provide adaptive equipment or techniques to carry out life tasks as needed; educate clients, families, and caregivers; and address prevention. The OTA works with a team of other professionals in a variety of settings including but not limited to: hospitals, school systems, community mental health centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, and private practice.

Our program provides state-of-the-art equipment and technology, inter-professional learning opportunities, and extensive clinical experiences for students to be job ready upon graduation.

Credentialing Required After Graduation

After successfully completing this accredited Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, the graduate is eligible to take 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 COTA.

NBCOT
 One Bank Street
 Suite 300
 Gaithersburg, MD 20878
 (301) 990-7979
 email: info@nbcot.org
 http://www.nbcot.org/

In addition, all states require licensure to practice; however, Ohio and most other state licenses are based on passing of the NBCOT Certification Exam. After achieving licensure, the individual will be a COTA/L.

Mission Statement

The Rhodes State OTA Program prepares students to be competent, professional occupational therapy assistants.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion, the student will be able to:

1. Exhibit therapeutic use of self as part of the therapeutic process with individuals and groups, demonstrating an appreciation of the uniqueness of every individual.
2. Demonstrate entry-level competency as a generalist in areas where occupational therapy is practiced using effective clinical reasoning,

gathering and sharing data, developing, implementing and modifying interventions, and conducting activity analysis.

3. Communicate effectively with clients, through documentation, and in intra and interprofessional collaborations with other health care team members.
4. Demonstrate professional behaviors and attitudes and behave in a manner that respects the dignity of others.

Notice to Prospective or Current Occupational Therapy Assistant Students

You are at risk if you have been convicted of a prior felony and/or some misdemeanors. You may not be able to participate in clinical education experiences at some hospitals or other clinical sites, therefore preventing you from completing the program. A felony conviction may affect your ability to sit for the National Certification Examination for the Occupational Therapy Assistant (NBCOT exam) or attain state licensure. Because health care employers routinely perform background checks on prospective employees, a criminal record may also prevent you from obtaining employment.

Technical Standards

See here for details.

Tech Prep Partner

See here for details.

"C" grade policy

- A minimum 2.0 GPA is required for graduation.
- A grade of "C" or higher must be achieved in all courses carrying the specific program prefix such as DHY, EMS, MAT, NSG, OTA, PNS, PTA, RAD, RES and SRG.
- All programs and certificates require a grade of "C" (2.0) or better in required science courses and in required basic/related health science (BHS) courses as well as in selected general education and basic/related science courses (see program requirements).

All of the following required coursework needs to have been completed within five years of matriculation into a Health Sciences program or certificate. The five year limit may be waived by the Program Chair or Coordinator if the applicant is currently working in a healthcare field.

Code	Title	Hours
BIO 1000	Basic Human Structure and Function	3
BIO 1110	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 1120	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
BIO 1400	Microbiology	4
BHS 1390	Medical Terminology	2
BHS 2110	Growth and Development: Lifespan	2
CHM 1120	Introductory Organic and Biochemistry	4
DTN 1220	Principles of Nutrition	2
NSG 1721	Pharmacology for Nursing	2

Note in addition to courses required for all Health Division Programs, the OTA program requires a "C" or better in PSY 1730, Abnormal Psychology

Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screening

To meet the expanding requirements of our clinical affiliates, both a criminal background check and a drug screen will be mandatory prior to clinical experiences for most students within the Division of Health Sciences and Public Service. Some program exceptions may apply.

You are at risk if you have been convicted of a prior felony and/or some misdemeanors. Students with certain felony, misdemeanor, or drug-related convictions will be ineligible for admission into clinical experiences. A criminal record may also prevent you from obtaining a license or certificate in your chosen healthcare profession or to obtain employment post-graduation. Students admitted to a program containing off-campus clinical/practicum experiences will be required to submit to drug screening. Positive drug screenings may result in dismissal from all clinical courses. Any student who refuses/fails to cooperate or complete any required drug screening will be considered "positive" and dismissed from the clinical component of their program. All students requiring drug screening may be subject to random drug screens and for cause during the program.

Recommended High School Coursework

Students are encouraged to complete college prep classes in high school. Although not required, the courses provide a better understanding of college-level work. Recommended college prep courses include:

English: 4 units

Math: 4 units


Natural Science: 3 units

Social Science: 3 units

Health Insurance

The Division of Health Sciences and Public Service is committed to protecting students, faculty, and patients from infectious diseases during clinical practice and taking every reasonable precaution to provide a safe educational and work environment. All new students entering the health-related programs will be informed of the risks of blood-borne and other infectious diseases. Students with a high risk of infectious diseases should be aware of their own health status and risk of exposure to other students, employees, or patients involved in the clinical environment. All students are required to provide their own health insurance coverage for the duration of their program and be able to provide proof of insurance if requested.

Occupational Therapy Assistant Associate of Applied Science Degree Structured Course Sequence (6 Semester Plan)

Pre-requisite Semester		
BHS 1000	Introduction to Patient Care	2
BHS 1390	Medical Terminology	2
BIO 1110	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
COM 1110	English Composition	3
MTH 1260 or MTH 1151	Statistics or Quantitative Reasoning	3
SDE 1010	First Year Experience	1
Term Hours		15
First Year		
Fall		
BIO 1120	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
OTA 1021	Occupational Therapy Principles and Practice	3
OTA 1030	Therapeutic Activities and Occupations	2
OTA 1050	Anatomy and Pathology I for OTA	3
Term Hours		12
Spring		
OTA 1060	Anatomy and Pathology II for OTA	2
OTA 1141	OTA Therapeutic Procedures I	4
PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
SOC 1010	Sociology	3
Term Hours		12
Summer		
OTA 2130	OTA Therapeutic Procedures II	4
PSY 1730	Abnormal Psychology	3
Term Hours		7
Second Year		
Fall		
OTA 2140	Occupational Therapy for Pediatrics	3
OTA 2151	Psychosocial Occupational Therapy	4
OTA 2161	OTA Therapeutic Procedures III	2
Term Hours		9
Spring		
OTA 2170	Fieldwork I ¹	4
OTA 2180	Fieldwork II ¹	4
OTA 2200 	Capstone for Occupational Therapy Assistant	2
Term Hours		10
Total Hours		65

* Program Qualification Requirements: completion of pre-requisite semester with "B-" or better in Introduction to Patient Care and "C" or better in all other courses. (Program also requires "C" or better in all OTA courses, Anatomy and Physiology II, and Abnormal Psychology.)

 Capstone Course

¹ These courses involve full-time field work in clinical sites and must be completed no later than 18 months after completion of academic preparation.

Prerequisites:

Students should check course prerequisites before registering. Prerequisites are listed in the Course Tab.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program is a limited enrollment program. The program allows enrollment of thirty (30) qualified students each fall semester. If more than thirty are qualified, students will be ranked by date of qualification. Remaining students will be placed on a waitlist for enrollment the following fall semester.

Qualification requires the following:

1. Completion of all pre-requisite courses with the required grade of 'C' or better:

- BHS-1000 (*Introduction to Patient Care*)
- BHS-1390 (*Medical Terminology*)
- BIO-1110 (*Anatomy and Physiology I*)
- COM-1110 (*English Composition*)
- MTH-1260 (*Statistics*) or MTH-1151 (*Quantitative Reasoning*)
- SDE-1010 (*First Year Experience*)

NOTE: BHS-1390 and BIO-1110 must be successfully completed within five years and BHS-1000 within two years of program entry. This may be waived by the Program Chair if the applicant is currently working in a healthcare field.

2. Students must schedule a meeting with an OTA program faculty member or program Coordinator for a personalized program advising session, which will include establishment of a personalized academic plan for program completion.

3. Completion of 20 hours of observation in two (2) different clinical settings - ten (10) hours each in two different settings, using the verification forms provided in the OTA Program on the program webpage.

4. Conduct an interview with a licensed Occupational Therapist (OT) or Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) using the guided Interview provided in the OTA Program Information Packet on the program webpage.

5. Eighteen years of age at the time of the first clinical experience.

6. All OTA students are required to have a reliable laptop or tablet with video and audio capability and the ability to connect to the internet for utilization throughout the curriculum. The program utilizes various distance education software including, but not limited to Zoom, Canvas, Hyflex technology, etc.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is accredited by the:

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E

Bethesda, MD 20814

Email: accred@aota.org

(301) 652-6611

www.acoteonline.org

This program has been accredited since its inception in 1997.