



Program Planning Guide

Occupational Therapy Assistant, Associate in Applied Science Degree (A45500)

The Occupational Therapy Assistant curriculum prepares individuals to work under the supervision of a registered/licensed occupational therapist in screening, assessing, planning, and implementing treatment and documenting progress for clients receiving occupational therapy services.

Course work includes human growth and development, conditions which interfere with activities of daily living, theory and process of occupational therapy, individual/group treatment activities, therapeutic use of self, activity analysis, and grading/adapting activities and environments.

Graduates may be eligible to take the national certification examination for practice as a certified occupational therapy assistant. Employment opportunities include hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, longterm/extended care facilities, sheltered workshops, schools, home health programs, and community programs.

The OTA program is currently accepting applications for Fall 2028 enrollment

Limited Enrollment Application Overview:

The Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program is a limited-enrollment program, which means that there are a limited number of seats in this program each year. Students must meet all requirements listed below to enter the OTA program. While they are completing these requirements, pre-OTA Students will be enrolled in the **Pre-Occupational Therapy Assistant program (A55280OT)**. Applications are accepted year-round and are reviewed as they are received. Eligible students will be notified and placed on the waiting list for the next cohort. Students are admitted to the program based on the date of their application.

OTA Admission Requirements:

- Complete 25 credit hours of Pre-OTA general education courses (see page 2).
- Complete BIO 168 and BIO 169 with a B or better.
- Complete all other general education courses with a C or better.
- Have a minimum 2.5 GPA based on 25 credit hours of OTA general education courses.
- Attend a mandatory, in-person program orientation before beginning the program. The date will be provided in the admission acceptance letter.

Provisional Acceptance:

Provisional acceptance will be offered to a student if there are seats available after all fully accepted students have confirmed their acceptance by May 31 each year, **and**:

- The student has earned a grade of C in BIO 168 and/or BIO 169.
- All remaining general education coursework will be completed by the end of the summer term.
 - Can have up to two missing general education classes, excluding BIO



Pre-Occupational Therapy Assistant Suggested Course Schedule:

		Class	Lab	Credits	Notes:
1st Semester (fall)					
ACA 122	Transfer & Career Success	0	2	1	Seated or Online
BIO 168	Anatomy and Physiology I	3	3	4	Seated
ENG 111	Writing & Inquiry	3	0	3	Seated or Online
Elective	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3	0	3	Seated or online
Total Semester Hours		9	5	11	
2nd Semester (spring)					
BIO 169	Anatomy and Physiology II	3	3	4	Seated
MAT 152 or MAT 171	Statistical Methods I Precalculus Algebra	3	2	4	Seated or online
PSY 150	General Psychology	3	0	3	Seated or online
Elective	Communication Elective	3	0	3	Seated or online
Total Semester Hours		12	5	14	

A minimum grade of B must be earned in all science classes (BIO 168 and BIO 169) for full acceptance. A minimum grade of C must be earned in all other pre-program classes. Provisional acceptance with a grade of C in science classes may be available.

Communication ELection Options: COM 110, COM 120, COM 231, **ENG 112**, ENG 114

Humanities/Fine Arts Elective Options: Select One: ART 111, ART 114, ART 115, DRA 111, ENG 231, ENG 232, ENG 241, ENG 242, HUM 110, HUM 115, HUM 120, HUM 122, HUM 150, MUS 110, MUS 112, **PHI 240***, REL 211, REL 212

***Recommended for OTA students**



Upon acceptance into the Physical Therapist Assistant program, students will take the following courses:

Program Course Schedule		Class	Lab	Clinical	Credits	Notes:
1st Semester (fall)						
PTA 110	Intro to Physical Therapy	2	3	0	3	Seated
PTA 130	Physical Therapy Proc I	1	6	0	3	Seated
PTA 170	Pathophysiology	3	0	0	3	Seated
	Total Semester Hours	6	9	0	9	
2nd Semester (spring)						
PTA 120	Functional Anatomy	1	6	0	3	Seated
PTA 140	Therapeutic Exercise	2	6	0	4	Seated
PTA 150	Physical Therapy Proc II	1	6	0	3	Seated
	Total Semester Hours	4	18	0	10	
3rd Semester (summer)						
PTA 160	Physical Therapy Proc III	2	3	0	3	Seated
PTA 212	Health Care/Resources	2	0	0	2	Seated
PTA 222	Professional Interactions	2	0	0	2	Seated
	Total Semester Hours	6	3	0	7	
4th Semester (fall)						
PTA 240	Physical Therapy Proc IV	3	6	0	5	Seated
PTA 252	Geriatrics for the PTA	2	0	0	2	Seated
PTA 254	Pediatrics for the PTA	0	3	0	1	Seated
PTA 180	PTA Clinical Ed Intro	0	0	9	3	In-person clinical rotation
PTA 270	PTA Topics	1	0	0	1	Seated
	Total Semester Hours	6	9	9	12	



5th Semester (spring)						
PTA 260AB	Adv PTA Clinical Ed	0	0	15	5	In-person clinical rotation
PTA 260BB	Adv PTA Clinical Ed	0	0	15	5	In-person clinical rotation
Total Semester Hours		0	0	30	10	
Total General Education Semester Hours Credit: 25						
Total Program Semester Hours Credit: 48						
Total Semester Hours Credit Required for Graduation 73						

Course Descriptions

OTA 110 Fundamentals of OT

Corequisite: Take BIO 168

This course introduces occupational therapy (OT) theory, practice, philosophy, and principles. Emphasis is placed on providing a basic understanding of the profession as well as beginning to develop interaction and observation skills. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate basic understanding of the domain and practice of occupational therapy, practice settings and professional roles, OT terminology, activity analysis, principles, process, philosophies, and frames of reference.

OTA 120 OT Media I

Corequisite: Take OTA 110

This course provides training in recognizing the therapeutic value and use of a wide variety of human occupations including basic activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, rest and sleep, education, work, play, leisure, and social participation. Topics include the understanding of different teaching and learning methods and styles, the language of occupational therapy (OT), OT interventions including preparatory methods and tasks, and restorative and compensatory techniques. Upon completion, students should be able to analyze, design, select, and safely perform occupation related activities that would be therapeutic for various populations across the lifespan.

OTA 130 Assessment Skills

Corequisite: Take OTA 110

This course provides training in appropriate and accurate assessment skills related to sensation, movement, vision, perception, cognition, emotions, and performance of basic activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living. Topics include physical and psychosocial factors affecting performance; and sensory, range of motion, strength, coordination, cognitive, visual-perceptual, self-care, and work-related assessments. Upon completion, students should be able to gather and share data for the purpose of screening and evaluation, administer selected assessments using appropriate procedures and protocols, and articulate the role of the occupational therapy assistant and occupational therapist in the screening and evaluation process.

OTA 140 Professional Skills I

Corequisite: Take OTA 110

This course provides training in appropriate and accurate assessment skills related to sensation, movement, vision, perception, cognition, emotions, and performance of basic activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living. Topics include physical and psychosocial factors affecting performance; and sensory, range of motion, strength,



coordination, cognitive, visual-perceptual, self-care, and work-related assessments. Upon completion, students should be able to gather and share data for the purpose of screening and evaluation, administer selected assessments using appropriate procedures and protocols, and articulate the role of the occupational therapy assistant and occupational therapist in the screening and evaluation process.

OTA 150 Peds Concepts & Interventions

Corequisite: Take OTA 170 and PSY 241

This course provides knowledge and skills needed for working with children from birth through adolescence. Topics include review of normal growth and development, habituation of healthy habits/routines, the role of occupational therapy with caregivers/providers, understanding of common conditions and developmental delays; and the role of occupation in assessment, intervention planning and implementation with pediatric populations. Upon completion, students should be able to plan, implement, and modify appropriate interventions with children in their context and environment to promote engagement in occupation.

OTA 161 Fieldwork I-Placement 1

Corequisite: Take OTA 120 and 140

This course provides introductory-level clinical training opportunities. Emphasis is placed on observational and basic interactional skills in a setting with a culturally diverse client population. Upon completion, students should be able to use observational and interactional skills to relate effectively with clients under the guidance/direction of fieldwork supervisors.

OTA 162 Fieldwork I-Placement 2

Prerequisite: Take OTA 120 and OTA 140

Corequisite: Take OTA 130

This course provides training in appropriate and accurate assessment skills related to sensation, movement, vision, perception, cognition, emotions, and performance of basic activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living. Topics include physical and psychosocial factors affecting performance; and sensory, range of motion, strength, coordination, cognitive, visual-perceptual, self-care, and work-related assessments. Upon completion, students should be able to gather and share data for the purpose of screening and evaluation, administer selected assessments using appropriate procedures and protocols, and articulate the role of the occupational therapy assistant and occupational therapist in the screening and evaluation process.

OTA 163 Fieldwork I-Placement 3

Prerequisite: Take OTA 120 and OTA 140

Corequisite: Take OTA 130

This course provides introductory-level clinical training opportunities. Emphasis is placed on observational and basic interactional skills in a setting with a culturally diverse client population. Upon completion, students should be able to use observational and interactional skills to relate effectively with clients under the guidance/direction of fieldwork supervisors.

OTA 170 Physical Conditions

Corequisite: Take OTA 110

This course is designed to provide knowledge and skills needed for working with individuals experiencing various medical conditions to help them achieve participation in life through engagement in occupation. Topics include medical terminology, common conditions, body functions that change with disease processes, applicable theories and principles, assessment and intervention priorities for commonly treated conditions. Upon completion, students should be able to recognize common symptoms, prioritize mental, neuromusculoskeletal and movement related functional problems, while providing for patient safety within the patient's context and environment.

**OTA 180 Psychosocial Conditions**

Prerequisite: Take PSY 281

Corequisite: Take OTA 130

This course is designed to provide knowledge and skills needed for working with individuals experiencing various psychosocial conditions to help them achieve participation in life through engagement in occupation. Topics include mental health conditions, applicable theories and principles, symptoms of dysfunction, assessment and treatment of individuals, planning and facilitating therapeutic groups, client safety, therapeutic use of self, and psychosocial aspects of practice. Upon completion, students should be able to effectively plan and conduct individual and group interventions for client conditions related to psychosocial dysfunction while recognizing contexts and environments that may also impact occupational performance.

OTA 220 OT Media II

Prerequisite: Take OTA 120 and OTA 130

This course provides training in appropriate and accurate assessment and intervention skills related to orthotics, prosthetics, assistive devices, assistive technology, client mobility, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues. Topics include ergonomics seating and positioning, community mobility, use of physical agent modalities, and technology in occupational therapy intervention. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate competency fabricating and utilizing orthotic and assistive devices, understanding ADA guidelines, and using technology for engagement in occupation.

OTA 240 Professional Skills II

Prerequisite: Take OTA 140

This course covers professional development, supervisory relationships, involvement in the profession, and clinic management skills. Topics include clarification of roles and responsibilities, detailed examination of the supervisory process, participation in professional organizations, and the mechanics of assisting in clinic operations. Upon completion, students should be able to work effectively with a supervisor, plan and implement a professional activity, and perform routine clinic management tasks.

OTA 250 Adult Concepts & Interventions

Corequisite: Take OTA 170, OTA 180, and PSY 241

This course provides knowledge and skills needed for working with adults through the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on identification and discussion of common changes associated with aging, disabilities and chronic diseases affecting this population, assessments and intervention, including developing healthy habits and routines, and the impact on participation in occupation in various settings. Upon completion, students should be able to plan, implement, and modify appropriate interventions with adults in their context and environment to promote engagement in occupations.

OTA 260 Level II Fieldwork Placement 1

This course provides clinical experience under the direct supervision of experienced occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistant practitioners working in various practice settings. Emphasis is placed on final clinical preparation for entry-level practice in the profession. Upon completion, students should be able to meet all critical competencies for entry-level practice established by the curriculum, AOTA guidelines, and regulatory bodies.

OTA 261 Level II Fieldwork Placement 2

This course provides the final clinical experience under the direct supervision of experienced occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistant practitioners working in various practice settings. Emphasis is placed on final clinical preparation for entry-level practice in the profession. Upon completion, students should be able to meet all critical competencies for entry-level practice established by the curriculum, AOTA guidelines, and regulatory bodies.



OTA 280 Professional Transitions

Corequisite: Take OTA 260, OTA 261

This course provides closure to the educational program in conjunction with clinical experience. Emphasis is placed on portfolio development and presentation, program evaluation, analysis and synthesis of clinical experiences, and final preparation for the certification examination. Upon completion, students should be able to enter the occupational therapy (OT) workforce with an understanding of themselves as OT professionals, and with supportive documentation demonstrating progress toward meeting competencies set forth by the profession and regulatory bodies.