

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

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The Occupational Therapy Assistant program is designed to prepare successful graduates for entry-level employment in the field of Occupational Therapy Assistants. A Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA), under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist, provides rehabilitative services to individuals with mental, physical, emotional, or developmental disabilities.

The COTA's purpose is to improve a client's quality of life and enhance his/her ability to perform daily activities. COTAs provide clients with adaptive skills that enable them to reenter the workforce, instruct clients in compensating for a loss of motor skill function, and plan activities that increase the independence of those with disabilities.

The OTA program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at:

7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E  
Bethesda, MD 20814

ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its Web address is [www.acoteonline.org](https://acoteonline.org) (<https://acoteonline.org/>).

Graduates of this program will be able to sit for the national certification examination for occupational therapy assistants administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a COTA. In addition, most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT certification examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

Prior to admission to the technical phase of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program, students must complete a platform of 28 hours which includes general education and medical courses. Students must also hold a current CPR for Health Care Providers certification prior to the first day of class. Students must submit an application to the program and meet entrance requirements for acceptance into the technical phase of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program.

*Students who are pursuing a program of study where admission is limited (Cardiac Sonography, Cosmetology, Medical Assistant, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Paramedic/Emergency Medical Services, Physical Therapist Assistant, Practical Nursing and Registered Nursing), will be assigned a major of Associate of General Studies until admitted into their selected program.*

Students are advised that the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program (OTA) is strenuous in nature. Students are therefore not allowed to take additional course work that is not directly related to their degree plan while in the OTA Program. If a student has completed all general education course requirements prior to entering the program, the student

may not have a full load of twelve credit hours or more (which could affect financial aid eligibility).

The OTA Program is very intense and requires approximately 30-36 hours per week of theory /lab/fieldwork. This does not include prep or study time. The hours ascribed to each semester while in the OTA Program are considered by the program to be full time.

## Programs

- Occupational Therapy Assistant, Associate of Applied Science (<https://catalog.atu.edu/ozark/programs/occupational-therapy-assistant/occupational-therapy-assistant-aas/>)

## Courses

### OTA 2102 Foundations of Occupational Therapy

Prerequisite: Acceptance into OTA program.

Through study, discussion, and field observation/participation, the student will examine the role of the occupational therapy assistant in health care in medical, community and education programs. Through an historical approach, the frames of reference of the profession will be reviewed with an emphasis on human occupation as a determinant of therapeutic intervention. A broad range of practice areas will be introduced and discussed as well as current trends and influences on the profession. Professional literature will be introduced and reviewed. Lecture: 2 hours; Ozark CF OTA

### OTA 2111 Level I Field Work A

Opportunity for the OTA student to apply academic knowledge of occupational therapy to practice through a Level I Fieldwork experience. Clinical: 1 hour; Ozark Allied Health

### OTA 2112 Modalities for Human Conditions I with Laboratory

This course will focus on the development of observation skills; assessment; and teaching, adapting, and grading self-care, work, and play/leisure occupations for individuals with developmental and mental health challenges (pediatrics and adolescent). Topics include collection of evaluation and screening data, interventions, techniques, and equipment to maximize participation in meaningful occupations, improve independence, and ensure safety. Laboratory: 2 hours; Ozark Malpractice Insurance

### OTA 2122 Human Movement and Activity Analysis for Occupational Therapy Laboratory

This lab experience will allow students to practice assessment of movement, strength and treatment in the Biomechanical Frame of Reference. The analysis of everyday activity as a treatment tool and assessment measure will also be an integral part of the lab experience. Laboratory: 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

### OTA 2132 Human Movement and Activity Analysis for Occupational Therapy

This course will present the basic principles of biomechanics and kinesiology related to human movement and occupational performance. Topics include the interrelationship among the central nervous system, peripheral nervous system, and musculoskeletal system; anatomical landmarks; joints; posture and balance, locomotion. The assessment of range of motion and functional strength will be examined. The primary tool of Occupational therapy intervention, Activity Analysis, will be integrated into all aspects of the teaching of human movement. Activity analysis of functional movement required for work, self-care, and play will be explored. Lecture: 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2142 Medical Conditions for the Occupational Therapy Assistant**

This course will examine the etiology and symptoms of clinical conditions that are commonly referred to in occupational therapy. Topics include the effects of trauma, disease, and congenital conditions on the biological, psychological, and social domains of occupational behavior. Procedures and precautions ensuring safety of clients and caregivers will be reviewed. Lecture: 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2152 Theory and Treatment for Human Conditions I**

A review of human development from birth through adolescence, with emphasis on occupational performance of typical and atypical individuals. The emergence of occupation and conditions that affect occupation will be explored. Topics include pediatric frames of reference such as Sensory Integration, Neurodevelopmental Treatment and Motor Skills Acquisition. Emphasis will be on the occupational therapy process, evidence-based practice, and roles of the OT and OTA in pediatric service delivery within a variety of practice settings. Childhood and adolescent psychosocial and mental health disorders will be explored. Professional literature will be reviewed for current practice trends. Lecture 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2162 Management and Licensure for the Occupational Therapy Assistant**

A study of management skills with an emphasis on organization and professional communication skills necessary for team building, leadership and collaboration. Topics include program planning, marketing, advocacy and program quality improvement. Documentation, reimbursement, ethical and legislative issues will be addressed. This class will review requirements for Level II Fieldwork, certification and licensure. Students will prepare for future employment through resume and portfolio development. Lecture 2 hours; Ozark OTA

**OTA 2202 Human Occupation and Clinical Reasoning**

Prerequisite: OTA 2102 Foundations of Occupational Therapy. This course will focus on the observations, analysis, and performance of human occupations in work, self-care, and play/leisure throughout the life span. The Frames of Reference and Conceptual Practice Models that guide OT practice will be reviewed. The process and the language of occupational therapy will be incorporated. Lecture 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2211 Level I Field Work B**

Opportunity for the OTA student to apply academic knowledge of occupational therapy to practice through a Level I Fieldwork experience. Fieldwork sites are different from Fieldwork I A and are utilized to broaden the student's Level I experiential background. Clinical: 1 hour; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2212 Modalities for Human Conditions II with Laboratory**

This course will focus on the development of observation skills; assessment; documentation; teaching; adapting; home and workplace modification; grading of self-care, work and play/leisure occupations for adults with physical and psychosocial challenges. Topics include collection of evaluation and screening data, techniques and equipment to maximize participation in meaningful occupations, improve independence, ensure safety, and prevent deformity. Laboratory: 2 hours; Ozark Malpractice Insurance

**OTA 2221 Documentation for Occupational Therapy**

A review of subjective, objective and assessment documentation. Students will learn documentation for the range of population served by the discipline. Students will learn to read and interpret the documentation of the medical team. Lecture: 1 hour; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2232 Group Processes and Dynamics**

Prerequisite: OTA 2102 Foundations of Occupational Therapy. A study of client-practitioner interactions. Topics include professional behaviors, therapeutic use of self, and group process & dynamics. Professional literature will be reviewed for current use of groups in occupational therapy practice. Students will design and lead groups within community or medical settings. Lecture: 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2242 Human Occupation and Clinical Reasoning Laboratory**

The application and integration of clinical reasoning and problem-solving strategies throughout the occupational therapy process will be emphasized. Emphasis is placed on the multifaceted dimensions of clinical decision making in OT practice through role plays, case study, discussion, and practice. Laboratory: 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2252 Theory and Treatment for Human Conditions II**

The occupational therapy process in relation to the years of early and middle adulthood, beginning with a historical and theoretical overview. Adulthood psychosocial and mental health disorders will be explored. Frames of reference for physical function and psychosocial function will be explored in relation to disease and disability. Topics include clinical features, medical management, effects of aging and chronic illness, interventions for productive aging and wellness, rehabilitation and participation in occupation for those with disabilities. Assessments and treatment, evidence-based practice, and issues impacting adult OT practice will be covered. Lecture: 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2262 Assistive Technology and Environmental Adaptations**

A study of adapting, altering or designing environments that support participation and facilitate engagement in social, family and community activities. All levels of assistive technology will be reviewed and discussed. Topics include but are not limited to home modifications, driving evaluations, communication devices and community mobility. Students will evaluate participation limitations and facilitators for individuals and communities. This course will introduce the student to a variety of assistive technology used in occupational therapy settings. Topics may include computer programs, switches, low vision adaptations, and high- and low-technology devices. Professional literature will be reviewed for recent practice trends in assistive technology and/or environmental adaptation. Lecture: 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2302 Occupational Therapy Assistant Professional Development**

This class will review requirements for Level II Field Work, certification and licensure. Students will prepare for future employment through resume and portfolio development, practice of interview skills and professional presentation. Ongoing professional development and specialty certifications will be encouraged for life-long learning. Lecture: 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2312 Modalities for Human Conditions III with Laboratory**

Prerequisite: OTA 2212 Modalities for Human Conditions II, and OTA 2232 Group Process & Dynamics.

This course will focus on the development of observation skills; assessment; documentation; and teaching, adapting, and grading self-care, work, and play and leisure occupations for older adults with physical and/or psychosocial challenges. Topics include collection of evaluation and screening data, techniques and equipment to maximize participation in meaningful occupations, improve independence, ensure safety, prevent deformity, productive aging and wellness, and participation within disability. Course will include Level I C Psychosocial fieldwork rotation opportunity for the OTA student to apply academic knowledge of occupational therapy to practice through a Level I Fieldwork experience. Fieldwork sites are different from Fieldwork I A & B and are utilized to broaden the student's Level I experiential background. Laboratory: 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2352 Theory and Treatment for Human Conditions III**

This course will examine the occupational therapy process in relation to the older adult with physical and/or psychosocial challenges, beginning with a historical and theoretical overview. Frames of Reference guiding physical and psychosocial OT during older adulthood will be examined. Topics include clinical features and medical management, assessments and treatment, evidence-based practice, and issues impacting geriatric OT practice. Professional literature will be reviewed for current practice trends. Lecture: 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2412 Level II Field Work A-1**

Co-requisite: OTA 2422.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of all OTA coursework.  
First four-week fieldwork experience designed to provide the OTA student the opportunity to work in an OT setting, under the supervision of an OTR or COTA. Students must meet objectives designed by academic and clinical educators. Clinical: 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2422 Level II Field Work A-2**

Co-requisite: OTA 2412.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of all OTA coursework.  
Continuation of Level Field Work A-1 designed to provide the OTA student the opportunity to work in an OT setting, under the supervision of an OTR or COTA. Students must meet objectives designed by academic and clinical educators. Clinical: 2 hours; Ozark Allied Health

**OTA 2424 Level II Field Work B**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of all OTA coursework.  
Second eight-week fieldwork experience designed to provide the OTA student the opportunity to work in an OT setting, under the supervision of an OTR or COTA. Students must meet objectives designed by academic and clinical educators. Fieldwork sites are different from Fieldwork II A and are utilized to broaden the student's Level II experiential background. Clinical: 4 hours; Ozark Allied Health

## Faculty

### Academic Fieldwork Coordinator

Rebekah Redman