

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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The Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) working under the supervision of a Licensed Occupational Therapist, assists in evaluation and interventions for individuals whose ability to handle daily living tasks is impaired by injury, disease, aging, or developmental deficits.

Phase I

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program is a 1+1 program. This means that students are required to complete all General Education requirements (Phase I) before applying to the clinical phase of the program (Phase II). A full-time student could potentially complete all General Education requirements in one year; however, a part-time student will require additional time. It is recommended that General Education requirements be completed within five (5) years prior to application to the Clinical Phase, and it is mandatory for the Biology requirements unless waived by the program director.

Phase II

Once admitted to the Clinical Phase (Phase II), students will complete all Occupational Therapy Assistant courses at the Cumberland campus in four (4) consecutive terms; summer, fall, spring, and summer. **Many of the Phase II courses are offered in an A-Term/B-Term format.**

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is comprised of both classroom education and clinical experience. A satisfactory health record must be on file prior to clinical experience. CPR certification is a prerequisite to beginning the clinical phase of the program. Certification and/or recertification is the responsibility of the student. The college regularly offers such courses. In order to participate in clinical experiences, students must obtain a Criminal Record Check. Many Occupational Therapy Assistant program fieldwork sites require receipt of the results of a criminal background check before accepting a student for fieldwork and may not accept a student with a criminal record. The Occupational Therapy Assistant program contracts with an independent agency to perform criminal background checks, and the cost of the service is included as a course fee in the first semester of Phase II of the program. The results of the criminal background check are reported to the Occupational Therapy Assistant program director and will be shared only with the Clinical Coordinator within the Occupational Therapy Assistant program. **If a student has any criminal history, he or she may not be able to complete fieldwork, and as fieldwork is an integral part of the Occupational Therapy Assistant curriculum, the student will also not be able to complete the program.** In addition, a criminal history may prevent the student from becoming certified and licensed to practice occupational therapy. If participating in a clinical experience at a Pennsylvania site, the student must also obtain a Child Abuse History Clearance. During enrollment, any official change or the initiation of any governmental proceeding affecting the information revealed by the required criminal or child abuse background checks must be reported immediately by the student to the director of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Allegany College of Maryland has been designated as a Health Manpower Shortage Program. The Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has determined certain health occupations in the state to be in short supply. The Maryland Higher Education Commission has designated educational programs that correspond to these health occupations to be eligible for the Health Manpower Shortage Program. Maryland residents from counties other than Allegany County who register in this eligible program will be charged the out-of-county tuition rate. However, these students may be eligible to receive reimbursement for a portion of the cost difference between the in county and out-of-county tuition rates. Funding availability for this program is based on funding from the State of Maryland and is thus subject to change each semester. Some restrictions apply. More information can be obtained by contacting the Admissions Office.

This is a career program and is designed to enable students to seek employment at the program's completion. Students planning to transfer should consult with their advisor or the Advising Center regarding specific program course transfer issues.

Successful completion of this program qualifies a student to apply for an Associate of Applied Science degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant.

PROGRAM ADMISSIONS

Phase I

Requirements for application to the Clinical Phase (Phase II):

1. Successful completion of all General Education courses (Phase I) with a grade of "C" or better.
2. Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 for all Phase I courses.
3. Completion of eight (8) documented volunteer observation hours with a licensed Occupational Therapist (OT) or Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) at two different facilities. Four of the 8 hours must be in a hospital or long term care setting, and the remaining four hours must be in an outpatient setting (pediatrics, outpatient therapy clinic, home care, or mental health). The observation forms must be submitted directly to the OTA Department by the supervisor at the facility by the April 15 deadline. Forms must be submitted in a confidential manner or they will not be accepted.
4. Review assigned videos and submit reflection summary assignments and submit by the April 15 deadline.
5. Submission of program application by March 1 in order to be considered for admission in the summer session.

Admission to the clinical phase of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program is limited to 16 students per year, and completion of the above requirements does not guarantee admission. Please contact the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program or the Admissions Office for more information on the application process.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED OTA COURSES

OTA-101	Introduction to Occupational Therapy
OTA-102	Dynamics of Human Motion
OTA-103	Intervention Techniques I
OTA-104	Diversity and Health Determinants
OTA-106	Intervention in Physical Rehabilitation
OTA-113	Neuroscience Concepts
OTA-203	Intervention Techniques II
OTA-204	Physical Agent Modalities
OTA-207	Intervention with Children and Adolescents
OTA-209	Clinical Internship I
OTA-210	Clinical Internship II
OTA-212	Specialty Skills Development
OTA-213	Clinical Application to Neuroscience
OTA-215	Mental Health Concepts and Techniques
OTA-218	Intervention with the Older Adult
OTA-220	OT Program Development
OTA-222	Documentation for Occupational Therapy

REQUIRED GENERAL COURSES

BIO-121	Musculoskeletal Anatomy of the Human
BIO-201	Human Anatomy and Physiology
ENG-101	English Composition I
PSYC-101	General Psychology
PSYC-203	Human Growth and Development (Education 203)

REQUIRED ELECTIVE COURSES

Please consult with your advisor or the Advising Center staff for selecting appropriate elective courses for graduation.

Humanities Elective - 3 credits

Mathematic Elective - 3 credits

PROGRAM PATH

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

TWO-YEAR CAREER PROGRAM

PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

<u>FIRST SEMESTER</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
Biological Science 121 (Musculoskeletal Anatomy of the Human) ¹	4
English 101 (English Composition I)	3
Humanities Elective	3
Psychology 101 (General Psychology)	3
Mathematics Elective	3
Total:	16
 <u>SECOND SEMESTER</u>	
Biological Science 201 (Human Anatomy and Physiology) ¹	4
Occupational Therapy 101 (Introduction to Occupational Therapy)	3
Occupational Therapy 104 (Diversity and Health Determinants)	3
Psychology 203 (Human Growth and Development)	3
Total:	13
 <u>SUMMER SESSION (following second semester)</u>	
Occupational Therapy 106 (Intervention in Physical Rehabilitation)	4
Occupational Therapy 103 (Intervention Techniques I)	2
Occupational Therapy 113 (Neuroscience Concepts)	1
Total:	7
 <u>THIRD SEMESTER</u>	
Occupational Therapy 102 (Dynamics of Human Motion)	4
Occupational Therapy 203 (Intervention Techniques II)	2
Occupational Therapy 207 (Intervention with Children and Adolescents)	4
Occupational Therapy 215 (Mental Health Concepts and Techniques)	4
Total:	14
 <u>FOURTH SEMESTER</u>	
Occupational Therapy 204 (Physical Agent Modalities)	2
Occupational Therapy 209 (Clinical Internship I)	4
Occupational Therapy 212 (Specialty Skills Development)	3
Occupational Therapy 213 (Clinical Application to Neuroscience)	1
Occupational Therapy 218 (Intervention with the Older Adult)	2
Occupational Therapy 220 (OT Program Development)	2
Occupational Therapy 222 (Documentation for Occupational Therapy)	2
Total:	16
 <u>SUMMER SESSION (following fourth semester)</u>	
Occupational Therapy 210 (Clinical Internship II)	4
Total:	4
Total Credit Hours:	70

¹ Students may elect to take both Biological Science 207 and 208 in place of both Biological Science 121 and 201. If the student's long-term goal is to transfer to a four-year college or university, then it is recommended that the student take Biological Science 207 and 208.

NOTE: All courses specifically identified by course number are graduation requirements for this program.

ACCREDITATION

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program has been accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), c/o Accreditation Department, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449, www.acoteonline.org; 301-652-2682. Graduates of this program are eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination and are subsequently eligible for state licensure. This examination is administered by the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), One Bank Street, Suite 300, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, www.nbcot.org; 301-990-7979.