



SMART START
ALLIED HEALTH ORIENTATION

Tulsa Community College

School of Health Sciences

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Program Director:
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Application deadline

January 1st

Program Basics

Number of semesters: 6 (including pre-requisites)

Total Credit Hours: 63

Degree earned: AAS

Prerequisites and General Education

- ALDH 1323 Medical Terminology
- BIOL 1314 Human Anatomy and Physiology

Application Scoring Criteria

ACT: required score 18. Over 18 = 3 pts possible points

GPA: required 2.8. Over 2.8 = 8 possible points

Grade point values earned for completed degree completion courses:

- A= 3 pts - B= 2 pts -C= 0 pts

Grade point values earned for above required earned grade for pre-requisite courses:

- A= 4 pts - B= 3 pts -C= 0 pts

Interview = 45 possible points

Writing Sample = 20 possible points

Advanced Degree: Bachelors or Masters

Healthcare Related Field= 4 pts Other Field= 2 pts

Life Experience Verification:

- Military Veteran DD214 = 10 points for health-related field; 5 pt other field
- Verification of Employment
 - o Certified Nursing Assistant = 1pt
 - o Rehabilitation Technician >1 yr = 5 pts
 - o Employment in Healthcare, teaching or Customer Service = 1pt

Total possible application ranking points = 124

Job Description and Basic Essential Function

This program is designed to prepare students to perform occupational therapy procedures and related tasks under the direction and supervision of a Registered Occupational Therapist. The Occupational Therapy Assistant performs various treatment procedures that provide meaningful activity for clients to resume occupations of choice delegated by the Registered Occupational Therapist. Clients may have a physical, cognitive, developmental or psychosocial need. Work settings may include hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient rehabilitation, private practice, school based, pediatric outpatient, psychiatric hospitals, long-term acute or inpatient rehabilitation settings. The Assistant also will work independently in programs to prevent disability and maintain health, such as Activity Director.

Essential functions include:

- The ability to observe and successfully participate in academic and fieldwork settings.
- The ability to read and comprehend written material at a college level including, but not limited to: texts; journals; articles; and electronic healthcare records.
- The ability to communicate effectively in oral and written form with students, faculty, staff, clients, family, and other professionals in both the academic and healthcare settings using appropriate grammar and spelling.
- Effective interpersonal skills necessary for productive classroom discussion and respectful interaction with classmates, faculty, fieldwork educators and clients. These skills include but are not limited to: expressing ideas and feelings clearly, being able to exchange information effectively and communicating with others in a respectful confident manner.
- Cognitive skills for problem solving, clinical reasoning and judgment and ability to respond and make decisions in a safe and effective manner.
- Emotional health and stability required for exercising good judgment, full use of intellectual abilities and prompt completion of all academic and fieldwork responsibilities as well as the ability to be flexible and to adapt to changing environments.
- Be aware that the work required of an OTA is very physically demanding. For example, OTA's are very often required to transfer and transport patients that are too weak to physically assist. Therefore, OTA's must possess the motor and sensory ability to safely complete required tasks in a timely manner and perform simple and repetitive tasks as needed, independently, as well as the ability to direct others, and / or use assistive technology perform complex and varied tasks as needed, independently.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is accredited 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.

AOTAs phone number is (301) 652-2682 (Website: www.aota.org).

Graduates of the program will be able 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).

Most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination.



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Risk Management Requirements

Immunizations
CPR
Background check
Drug screening

Clinical or Field Work Expectations

Travel: Fieldwork placement locations vary. Commutes could be 1.5hrs one way per day or less based on placement.

Cost: Budgeting for transportation to fieldwork site and living expenses during 5th semester is highly encouraged.

Fieldwork:

- Fieldwork I occurs during the 3rd semester (summer intercession) and during the 4th semester
- Fieldwork II occurs during the 5th semester. This is a 16 week clinical placement averaging 40 hours per week with additional time spent in the evenings and weekends preparing for the following day/week. During this semester it is strongly recommended that the student does not pursue employment in addition to the demands of the Fieldwork.

Program Recommended Study Habits

Work School Ratio: Successful students typically do not work more than 20 hours/week outside of coursework.

Rigor: Additional time outside of the regular class schedule is required for group meetings, assignments at the Nate Waters Clinic, field trips and so forth. OTA graduates recommend 2-4 hours of study time per day

Assessment types: Written Exams (multiple choice, essay, fill in the blank, true false, matching, etc), lab checkouts, projects, presentations, written papers, research)

GPA minimums: To progress in the program final grades must be a "C" or higher.

Ways to Maximize Competitiveness of Application

The OTA program welcomes well rounded students. Students who demonstrate the ability to complete their academic work, execute clear writing and can connect with others in a meaningful way are excellent candidates.

It is recommended to practice interview and composition writing skills.



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