

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Professor Jacqueline Hurt, Program Director

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Mission Statement

In concert with the mission of University of the Charleston, the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program seeks to prepare its graduates to enter the global workforce as highly educated, productive individuals who have the knowledge and ability to embrace enlightened living through therapeutic use of self, and the technical skills and professional behaviors to be an involved member of the occupational therapy community. The OTA program seeks to maintain the highest ethical standards and to ensure dynamic curriculum development by thorough and ongoing assessment programs.

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Goals

Our goal is to prepare entry-level Occupational Therapy Assistants:

- Who are competent, compassionate, and ethical.
- Who demonstrate a knowledge level and skill set indicative of securing national certification in Occupational Therapy Assisting.
- Who understand and communicate effectively across disciplines.
- Who value lifelong learning, are dedicated professionals and socially responsible citizens.

Faculty are committed to:

- Providing a strong foundation in the skills and knowledge needed for entry-level OTA practice competencies.
- Providing an environment to assist in understanding occupational therapy and practice.
- Providing instruction in basic skills and a supportive learning environment that will encourage and motivate the student to complete the prescribed course of study and remain lifelong learners.
- Providing an atmosphere that teaches respect for human life and demonstrates how that respect can be translated into client/patient care.
- Provide an atmosphere that provides students with an environment to learn new and marketable skills.
- Focusing on continuous improvement in the Occupational Therapy Assistant curriculum, allowing students access to the best evidence in the field of Occupational Therapy

Program Learning Outcomes

The graduate will:

PLO 1: Graduates will practice effective communication skills

PLO 2: Graduates will employ critical thinking skills

PLO 3: Graduates will demonstrate entry-level clinical competence

PLO 4: Graduates will translate didactic work into application

Admission Requirements

Admission to the OTA program is selective, and acceptance to the University of Charleston does not guarantee admission into the OTA program. Application is limited to those who have successfully completed the prerequisites listed below and meet specific GPA requirements of at least a 2.5.

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Beginning algebra
- English and communication
- Social Science
- Developmental Psychology

Additional Requirements for the OTA program Application Process

- 2 Letters of recommendation from someone other than family members
- GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Must complete all General Education with a C or better before starting the OTA program.
- Complete all OTA courses with “C” or higher
- Students must demonstrate basic computer proficiency or will have to participate in a UC computer seminar
- Transfer credits are subject to change with the registrar’s office evaluation of your official transcripts.
- Total Program Credit Hours 63

Felony Conviction Information

A student may be admitted to the OTA program at University of Charleston-Beckley even if a felony has been committed. However, there may be instances where a student will not be permitted to test for licensure or admitted to a clinical setting depending on the guidelines of the outside Accrediting /Certifying Agency or the clinical affiliate. Each student is instructed to contact the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) for pre-verification of testing and/or questions concerning felony convictions. Telephone: (301-990-7979) www.nbcot.org

Drug Testing Policy

- Mandatory drug screenings will be performed. Students will not be notified in advance of a mandatory drug screening. The costs associated with the screening are the responsibility of the student.
- A reasonable suspicion screening will be required based on personal, physical, or performance changes. The cost of the drug screening is the responsibility of the student.
- In addition to “Mandatory Drug Testing” and “Reasonable Suspicion Drug Testing”, students are subject to the drug testing policies at any clinical site they

may be assigned to and are responsible for all costs related to a clinical site's drug testing.

- Any Occupational Therapy Assistant student who has a positive drug screen will be subject to disciplinary action and immediate dismissal from the program.
- Re-entry into the Occupational Therapy Assistant program will not be considered following a positive drug test.
- Any Occupational Therapy Assistant student who refuses to perform or to pay for a mandatory drug screen, a drug screen requested due to reasonable suspicion, or a clinical site's drug screen will be considered in direct violation of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program drug testing policy and will be subject to disciplinary action and immediate dismissal from the program.

Policies for Progression and Graduation

Eligibility for a degree in Occupational Therapy Assisting requires successful completion of didactic courses, level I and level II fieldwork rotations.

To be eligible for graduation a student must:

- Achieve a minimum "C" in all prerequisite and OTA didactic courses
- Complete a minimum of 63 combined academic and fieldwork credits
- Complete level I and level II fieldwork rotations as assigned, with a passing grade

Occupational Therapy Assistant Curriculum

First Year Fall		
BIOL 212	Human Anatomy & Physiology*	3
BIOL 212L	Human Anatomy & Physiology*	1
COMM 101	Freshman Writing I	3
PSYC 212	Lifespan Psychology	3
OTA 201	Introduction to Occupational Therapy**	3
	Total	13
First Year Spring		
COMM 102	Freshman Writing II	3
SSCI 105	Social Sciences	3
MATH 120	Mathematics	3
OTA 203	Clinical Kinesiology**	3
	Total	12
Second Year Fall		
OTA 202	Principles of Performance in OT	3

OTA 204	OT in Adult Physical Performance I	4
OTA 205	Level I Fieldwork I	1
OTA 208	OT in Psychosocial & Lab	3
OTA 209	Modalities and Methods for Occupational Therapy & Lab	3
	Total	14
Second Year Spring		
OTA 206	Level I Fieldwork II	1
OTA 207	OT in Adult Physical Performance II	4
OTA 210	Occupational Performance in Children	3
OTA 215	Occupational Performance in the Elderly	3
OTA 216	Capstone Seminar I	1
	Total	12
Second Year Summer		
OTA 211	Level II Fieldwork I	5
OTA 212	Level II Fieldwork II***	5
OTA 217	Capstone Seminar II	2
	Total	12

Total Program Credit Hours: 63

*or 8 Credit hours of Anatomy and Physiology I and II with lab

**OTA 201 and OTA 203 can be taken within the program requirement year.

***An additional semester may be added to the program year depending on fieldwork rotation

Accreditation

The Associate of Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Complete accreditation confirmation is available at:

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) 6116
Executive Boulevard, Suite 200
North Bethesda, MD
20852- 4929
<http://www.acoteonline.org>
1-301-652-AOTA