

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.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). The next accreditation evaluation is scheduled for the academic year 2026-2027.

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Goals

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

Who are competent, compassionate, and ethical.

Who demonstrates a knowledge level and skill set indicative of securing national certification in Occupational Therapy Assisting.

Who understands and communicates effectively across disciplines.

Those 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:

1. Practice effective and professional communication skills with clients, families, and health care professionals to communicate the distinct value of occupation.
2. Demonstrate effective critical thinking skills to assist in developing innovative treatment ideas that are culturally sensitive, evidence-based, client-centered, and target meaningful occupations.
3. Demonstrate entry level competence by obtaining the knowledge and skills needed to be a generalist practitioner who provides services that are ethically sound, within the scope of practice of the profession, and in accordance with the accompanying state practice act.
4. Translate didactic work into application by applying previously learned materials into effective and safe treatment activities that promote client centered, occupation-based interventions.

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 – (BIOL 212/212L or 8 credit hours of A&P I and II with lab)
- Beginning algebra (3 credit hours)
- English I and II (6 credit hours)
- Social Science (3 credit hours)
- Developmental Psychology (3 credit hours)

Essential Functions for Occupational Therapy Assistant Students

These are standards for OTA students and applicants to the OTA program based on required abilities, capabilities and functions as interpreted by the OTA Program Director and are based on functions/abilities needed for a student to safely engage in educational, learning, and training activities in a manner that does not endanger themselves, other students, patients, or the public.

Function	Standard	Examples of Activities
Visual	Visual ability sufficient to see details at close and far range. Ability to observe, receive & obtain visual information from all relevant sources for assessment required in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See and read course information, clinical forms, charts.• See and read computer screens and other equipment.

	patient/client care situations. Accurate color discrimination required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee set up and implementation of treatment activities.
Hearing	The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words, sentences and to hear and interpret loud, soft, and muffled sounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hear and Interpret alarms, machinery, and emergency alarms, cries for help. Use call light and hear intercom speakers. Use the telephone.
Tactile	Tactile sensation adequate for physical assessment, and sensory stimulation interventions inclusive of size, shape, temperature, texture, vibration, pressure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palpate pulse rate, and muscle movement, anatomic structures. Detect safe heat level on various tools, splinting and appliances.
Fine Motor	Ability sufficient to provide safe and effective care and documentation including operation of equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write and document legibly. Grasp and pinch Cut and open containers Repetitive hand use Electronic documentation.
Gross Motor	Gross motor ability sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care. Physical strength to perform all types of patient transfers and lifts from a variety of surfaces and levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stand, bend, stoop, squat, crawl, kneel, reach, balance, sit, Perform CPR and client evacuation. Use safe body mechanics to lift, push, and pull.
Environmental	Able to tolerate environmental stressors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with chemicals and detergents Inside and occasional outside Tolerate exposure to fumes, odors, dust, temperature changes.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in areas that are close, crowded, and noisy. • Work in areas of exposure to infectious waste, body fluids, wet or humid conditions • Work in areas of potential physical violence
Communication	<p>Communication ability in English sufficient for appropriate interaction in verbal, written, non-verbal and electronic forms.</p> <p>Ability needed for entering, transcribing, recording, storing, or maintaining information in written or electronic form.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read, understand, write, and speak English so that others will understand. • Explain treatment. • Perform health teaching. • Validate responses/messages with others. • Documentation
Mobility	Ambulatory capability to sufficiently maintain a center of gravity when met with an opposing force as in lifting, supporting, and /or transferring a patient/client.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propel wheelchairs and ambulate patients using a gait belt. • Move and obtain patient care equipment. • Aid patients in dressing, bathing, and grooming • Move freely from place to place.
Cognitive-Perception	The ability to perceive events realistically, to think clearly, rationally and to function appropriately in routine and stressful situations including recognizing that something is wrong.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize rapidly changing patient status. • Attend to multiple priorities in stressful situations.
Critical Thinking	Analyzing information and evaluating results to choose the best solution and solve problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to exercise sound clinical judgment. • Ability to apply general rules to specific

		problems to produce answers that make sense.
Interpersonal	Developing constructive and cooperative relationships with others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage a variety of patient expressions in a calm manner. • Behave in an ethical manner. • Establish rapport. • Ability to have insight and self-awareness in your own actions and their effect on others.
Activity Tolerance	Ability to tolerate lengthy periods of mental and physical activity over a period of time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand and or sit for long periods. • Selective attention without distraction • Move or attend frequently.

Students who feel they do not possess these essential abilities/functions should seek assistance from the Academic Success Center to determine if reasonable accommodation for a disability can be approached with the program. It is the student's responsibility to initiate the process and to assist in communication between the faculty and the Academic Success Center Disability Coordinator. Email: ASC@ucwv.edu

Additional Requirements for the OTA program Application Process

Full acceptance to the University of Charleston

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.

All prerequisite (general education) courses may be taken only twice. After 2 failures of the same course the student cannot be admitted to the OTA program. The student must have all prerequisite courses successfully completed and an official transcript placed in the students OTA program file before full acceptance to the OTA program.

Transfer credits are subject to change with the registrar's office evaluation of your official transcripts.

Total Program Credit Hours 63

Observation or volunteer hours in occupational therapy are not required but are highly recommended.

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, level II fieldwork rotations and Clinical Competence for the OTA.

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

Successfully complete Clinical Competence for the OTA which includes a practice NBCOT exam.

Occupational Therapy Assistant Curriculum

First Year Fall

BIOL 212	Introduction to Human Anatomy & Physiology*	3
BIOL 212L	Introduction to Human Anatomy & Physiology Lab*	1
ENGL 101	Freshman Writing, I	3
PSYC 212	Lifespan Development	3
OTA 201	Introduction to Occupational Therapy**	3
	Total	13

First Year Spring

ENGL 102	Freshman Writing II	3
SSCI 105	Issues in Social Science	3
MATH 120	Intermediate Algebra	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	Professional Development and Ethics	1
	Total	12

Second Year Summer

OTA 211	Level II Fieldwork I	5
OTA 212	Level II Fieldwork II***	5
OTA 217	Clinical Competence for the OTA	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

****Course Fees are included in your tuition for OTA 209, OTA 210, OTA 211/212, and OTA 215 to offset the cost associated with AOTA Digital Badging Program, fieldwork cost, and additional materials needed for class projects.**

*****Semester Fees are included in your tuition to offset the cost of the NBCOT exam.**

Accreditation

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education
(ACOTE)

7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E

Bethesda, MD 20814

Accred@aota.org

1-301-652-6611

<http://www.acoteonline.org>