

Occupational Therapy Assistant

10-514-1 Associate Degree

Financial Aid Eligible

Program Overview

This associate degree program prepares you to become a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA), or for employment in related jobs. In the traditional setting, the COTA provides services under the supervision of an occupational therapist using goal-directed activities to prevent, lessen, or overcome difficulty in attaining, maintaining, or developing occupations: daily living skills, play, leisure, and/or work skills. Services are provided in various environments including hospitals, geriatric centers, schools, homes, and communities.

Offered at:



Ashland
New Richmond
Rice Lake
Superior

Program-Specific Requirements

To be a student in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program, you must:

- Meet the OTA standard on the WITC entrance admission test
- Have earned a high school diploma or GED certificate
- Have an acceptable Wisconsin Caregiver Background Check
- Pass a physical exam, have current immunizations, and demonstrate negative status for tuberculosis (Tb)
- Complete one year of high school or one semester of college-level chemistry with a "C-" or better

Student Profile

As an Occupational Therapy Assistant student, you should be able to:

- Be flexible and empathetic
- Handle emotional situations
- Adjust to diverse personalities and backgrounds
- Work under stress
- Communicate effectively
- Have good reasoning and organizational skills

Preparation for Admission

The following experiences will help you prepare for this program:

- Biology
- Anatomy
- Communications
- Psychology
- Basic Computer Skills

Program Outcomes

Employers will expect you, as a graduate of the program, to be able to:

- Adhere to ethical standards, values, and

attitudes of the occupational therapy profession.

- Practice within the distinct role and responsibility of the occupational therapy assistant.
- Advocate for the profession, services, and consumers.
- Value lifelong learning and the need to keep current with best practice.
- Apply occupational therapy principles and intervention tools to achieve expected outcomes.
- Serve a diverse population in a variety of systems that are consistent with entry-level practice.

Career Outlook

When you graduate from this program, you will be qualified for a position as:

- Occupational Therapist Assistant
- Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA)
- Activities Director/Coordinator
- Case Manager
- Community Support Worker
- Life Skills Trainer
- Mental Health Technician

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, phone 301-652-AOTA. 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.

Curriculum

Number	Course Title	Credits
Technical Studies Courses		
10514171	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	3
10514172	Medical and Psychosocial Conditions ▲	3
10514173	Activity Analysis and Applications ▲	2
10514174	OT Performance Skills ▲	4
10514175	Psychosocial Practice ▲	3
10514176	OT Theory and Practice ▲	3
10514177	Assistive Technology and Adaptations	2
10514178	Geriatric Practice ▲	3
10514179	Community Practice ▲	2
10514182	Physical Rehabilitation Practice ▲	3
10514183	Pediatric Practice ▲	3
10514184	OTA Fieldwork I ▲	2
10514185	OT Practice and Management ▲	2
10514186	OTA Fieldwork IIA ▲	5
10514187	OTA Fieldwork IIB ▲	5
		<u>45</u>
General Studies Courses		
10801195	Written Communication ♦	3
10801196	Oral/Interpersonal Communication	3
10806177	General Anatomy and Physiology ▲	4
10809172	Race, Ethnic, and Diversity Studies	3
10809188	Developmental Psychology	3
10809196	Introduction to Sociology	3
10809198	Introduction to Psychology	3
		<u>22</u>
	ELECTIVES	3
	PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	70

Fieldwork: Fieldwork IIA and IIB will be completed in two different settings under the supervision of a COTA or OTR. OTA students must complete Level II Fieldwork within 18 months following completion of the academic preparation.

▲ This course requires a prerequisite and/or corequisite. Students must earn a grade of "C" or better in all required courses.

♦ Appropriate placement score or Introduction to College Writing course required.

Course Descriptions

10514171

Introduction to Occupational Therapy - Credits: 3

Provides an overview of history, philosophy, ethics, and scope of occupational therapy practice. Examines legal responsibilities, professional resources, and organization. Students practice basic skills related to therapeutic relationships and determine their own suitability to a career in occupational therapy.

10514172

Medical and Psychosocial Conditions - Credits: 3

Introduces medical and psychosocial conditions as they relate to occupational therapy practice. Topics include etiology, symptomology, treatment, and contraindications. PREREQUISITE: Admission to OTA program and COREQUISITE: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy.

10514173

Activity Analysis and Applications - Credits: 2

Provides instruction in activity analysis with hands-on experience in activities across the lifespan. Students apply the teaching/learning process and adhere to safety regulations. PREREQUISITE: Admission to OTA program and COREQUISITE: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy.

10514174

OT Performance Skills - Credits: 4

Emphasis on the development of skills related to assessment and intervention in the areas of sensory, motor, cognition and communication. PREREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy and 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions.

10514175

Psychosocial Practice - Credits: 3

Examines the role of the OTA in the service delivery to individuals affected by mental health conditions. Provides opportunity for development of skills related to psychosocial assessment and interventions. PREREQUISITE: 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions and COREQUISITE: 10514176 OT Theory and Practice.

10514176

OT Theory and Practice - Credits: 3

Examines the theoretical foundations that guide OT practice. Apply group dynamics and demonstrate leadership skills. PREREQUISITE: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy.

10514177

Assistive Technology and Adaptations - Credits: 2

Explores technologies that support delivery of OT services. Emphasis on competency related to computer skills, ergonomics, adaptive devices, and environments.

10514178

Geriatric Practice - Credits: 3

Examines the role of the OT in the service delivery to elders in a variety of settings. Includes analysis of the impact of age-related changes and disease processes on the function of the elderly. PREREQUISITE: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy.

10514179

Community Practice - Credits: 2

Explores practice options and interventions for occupation-based community practice. Students articulate the unique role of occupational therapy within the community. PREREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy and 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions.

10514182

Physical Rehabilitation Practice - Credits: 3

Explores interventions relative to major physical disability diagnoses seen in OT practice. Evaluation, treatment interventions, and documentation are emphasized relative to the biomechanical, neurodevelopmental, and rehabilitative approaches to practice. PREREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills and 10514176 OT Theory and Practice.

10514183

Pediatric Practice - Credits: 3

Explores interventions relative to major pediatric diagnoses seen in OT practice. Evaluation, treatment interventions, and documentation are emphasized within the context of the child's occupations. PREREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, and 10809188 Developmental Psychology.

10514184

OTA Fieldwork I - Credits: 2

Integrate classroom theory and practice into a Fieldwork Level I experience. Provides experiences to assist in the development of communication, professional and observational skills. PREREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills and 10514176 OT Theory and Practice.

10514185

OT Practice and Management - Credits: 2

Provides opportunities to practice clinical management skills, continuous quality improvement measurement, and administrative concepts and procedures. Students create a professional development plan. PREREQUISITE: 10514184 Fieldwork I and COREQUISITE: 10514186 OTA Fieldwork IIA or 10514187 OTA Fieldwork IIB.

10514186

OTA Fieldwork IIA - Credits: 5

Develop skills and behaviors necessary for entry-level occupational therapy assistant practice. Provides a different clinical practice setting than OTA Fieldwork IIB. PREREQUISITE: 10514184 OTA Fieldwork I.

10514187

OTA Fieldwork IIB - Credits: 5

Develop skills and behaviors necessary for entry-level occupational therapy assistant practice. Provides a different clinical practice setting than OTA Fieldwork IIA. PREREQUISITE: 10514184 OTA Fieldwork I.

Graduate Employment Information

(WITC Graduate Survey Responses 2005-2006)

Number of graduates	13	Number employed	9	% employed in WITC district	50%
Number of responses	12	Percent employed	90%	Range of yearly salary	-
Number available for employment	10	Employed in related field	8	Average yearly salary	\$32,238

career vision