

Occupational Therapy Assistant

10-514-1 Associate Degree (two-year)

Financial Aid Eligible

Program Overview

This associate degree program prepares the student 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.

Campus:



WISCONSIN
INDIANHEAD
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

Ashland*
New Richmond*
Rice Lake*

*via ITV (Interactive Television)

Admission Requirements

Students in this program must:

- Complete application form and submit with fee (fee waiver may apply if previously submitted)
- Complete Accuplacer entrance assessment to determine placement (waiver may apply with acceptable alternative test scores and/or postsecondary degree completion)
- Have earned a high school diploma or GED certificate; current high school seniors must provide documentation upon graduation
- Review and sign Caregiver Background Check and/or Criminal History Record Check Statement of Understanding
- Complete one year of high school or one term of college-level chemistry with a 2.0 or better
- Review and sign the Functional Ability Statement of Understanding
- Complete admissions meeting with a WITC counselor (above requirements should be completed prior to meeting)

Program-Specific Requirements

Students in this program must:

- Submit Background Check fee
- Have an acceptable Wisconsin Caregiver Background Check, National Criminal Background Check, Minnesota Caregiver Background Check (if applicable), and other states, if applicable
- Pass a physical exam, have current immunizations, and demonstrate negative status for tuberculosis (Tb)
- Possess current certification of "CPR for Healthcare Providers" or equivalent
- Review and sign Allied Health Division Confidentiality Statement
- Attend a mandatory program orientation session

Program Outcomes

Employers will expect graduates of the program to be able to:

- Practice within the distinct role and responsibility of the occupational therapy assistant
- Serve a diverse population in a variety of systems that are consistent with entry-level practice
- Value lifelong learning and the need to keep current with best practice

- Apply occupational therapy principles and intervention tools to achieve expected outcomes
- Demonstrate professional behaviors, ethical standards, values, and attitudes of the occupational therapy profession
- Advocate for the profession, services, and consumers

Employability essentials and indicators will also be addressed to develop personal awareness, career effectiveness, and professionalism. See page 5 of the college catalog for a list of employability essentials and indicators.

Career Outlook

Graduates of this program will be qualified for the following positions:

- Occupational Therapy 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, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449, Web site www.acoteonline.org, phone 301-652-2682. 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.

A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

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
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		45
General Studies Courses [†]		
10801136	English Composition 1 ▲	3
10801196	Oral/Interpersonal Communication	3
10806177	General Anatomy and Physiology ▲	4
10809172	Introduction to Diversity Studies	3
10809188	Developmental Psychology	3
10809196	Introduction to Sociology	3
10809198	Introduction to Psychology	3
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		22
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.

▲ Requires a prerequisite and/or corequisite that must be completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better.

† See pages 41-43 for course descriptions.

Students must earn a grade point of 2.0 or better in all required courses.

Course Descriptions

(See pages 41-43 for General Studies 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, symptomatology, treatment, and contraindications. PREREQUISITE: Admission to OTA program and COREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514173 Activity Analysis and Appl, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

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 COREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

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, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, 10514173 Activity Analysis and Applications, 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology and COREQUISITES: 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice.

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. PREREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, 10514173 Activity Analysis and Applications, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology and COREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice.

10514176

OT Theory and Practice - Credits: 3

Examines the theoretical foundations that guide OT practice. Apply group dynamics and demonstrate leadership skills. PREREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, 10514173 Activity Analysis and Applications, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology and COREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice.

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. PREREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, 10514173 Activity Analysis and Applications, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology and COREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice.

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. PREREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, 10514173 Activity Analysis and Applications, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology and COREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, and 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations.

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, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice and COREQUISITES: 10514182 Physical Rehabilitation Practice, 10514183 Pediatric Practice, and 10514184 OTA Fieldwork I.

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, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice and COREQUISITES: 10514179 Community Practice, 10514183 Pediatric Practice, and 10514184 OTA Fieldwork I.

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, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice and COREQUISITES: 10514179 Community Practice, 10514182 Physical Rehabilitation Practice, 10514184 OTA Fieldwork I, 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, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice and COREQUISITES: 10514179 Community Practice, 10514182 Physical Rehabilitation Practice, and 10514183 Pediatric 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. PREREQUISITES: All required courses with a grade point of 2.0 or better and COREQUISITES: 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. PREREQUISITES: All required courses with a grade point of 2.0 or better and COREQUISITES: 10514185 OT Practice and Management and 10514187 Fieldwork IIB.

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. PREREQUISITES: All required courses with a grade point of 2.0 or better and COREQUISITES: 10514185 OT Practice and Management and 10514186 Fieldwork IIA.

Graduate Employment Information

(WITC Graduate Survey Responses 2014-2015; for most recent data, go to witc.edu)

Number of graduates	19	Number employed	12	% employed in WITC district	57%
Number of responses	15	Percent employed	92%	Range of yearly salary	\$33,744-\$37,437
Number available for employment	13	Employed in related field	9	Average yearly salary	\$36,206

career vision