OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

What is Occupational Therapy?
Young or old, we all have a job to do. Imagine not being able to tie your shoes, cook a meal, pick up a child, drive, or participate in activities that are meaningful or pleasurable. Many "occupations" or activities like these are taken for granted until an injury or a loss of physical or mental health makes it difficult for people to do everyday tasks or be as active and as independent as they would like to be.

Occupational therapy: a vibrant, growing profession—makes it possible for people to regain independence and to enjoy life to its fullest. By choosing a career in occupational therapy, you will make a difference. For more information, visit www.aota.org.

ADMISSION AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Admissions Process
~ Application packets are available online and in our Allied Health Office beginning in January of each year with an application deadline of June 1st.
~ Up to 36 students who best meet the OTA program requirements with complete applications are scheduled for interviews by mid-June of each year with additional interviews held in July if needed.
~ Applicants are notified by mid-July of acceptance into the program.
~ Due to the large number of expected applications, not all applicants will be interviewed for the program. A maximum of 12 students are accepted into the program each year. The number of applicants invited for an interview will not exceed three times that number.

Program Requirements
~ A minimum of 2.5 GPA is required (3.0 or higher preferred)
~ BIOL 2010 Anatomy and Physiology I (with lab) must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher no later than the summer prior to beginning OTA classes. Anatomy and Physiology must have been completed within the past five years (since Fall 2012)
~ General Psychology must be completed no later than the first fall semester in the program.
~ A humanities elective, a speech class and English composition I may be completed before beginning the program, or at any time during the first three program semesters. All courses must be complete with a grade of “C” or higher before students participate in the second year spring semester fieldwork experiences.
~ A minimum of 8 observations hours is required under the supervision of an OT/OTA documented on the provided observation sheet in the application
~ The committee also takes into consideration community service and volunteer hours in addition to the required 8 observation hours under an OT/OTA. It is understandable that individuals are not able to take off work to get an abundance of observation hours and sometimes OT’s in the community can’t guarantee multiple hours to all of the OTA program applicants.

Knowledge of Computers: Students in the OTA Program must be able to use a computer. Required computer skills include email, accessing and using eLearn at JSCC, creating documents and presentations, uploading and downloading information to and from the internet. All students must have access to a computer on a regular basis.

Special Information:
~ Level II fieldwork experiences may be in a location outside the West Tennessee area, requiring the student to relocate for one (8 weeks) or both (16) week experiences.
~ OTA courses are offered Monday-Friday, daytime only. Some courses may have web-based activities, but each semester schedule requires students to be on campus during the week. Class schedules vary from semester to semester.
~ Level II fieldwork experiences are full-time, un-paid, mostly work-week internships. Some evening or weekend work may be required. Due to the level of student work required during these experiences, students should plan to not work other jobs their last semester in the program. Students must complete Level II fieldwork within 12 months following completion of didactic portion of the program.

Criminal Background Check: Admitted student will be required to provide a copy of a background check. Background checks are required by some clinical experiences to successfully complete the program. If a student is unable to participate in clinical experiences due to the results of the criminal background check, he/she may not be able to complete the degree requirements and would not graduate from the program.

ACCREDITATION

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. ACOTE’s telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its Web address is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the program will be eligible 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). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.
OTA Program Curriculum

OTA Required Courses

**Semester 1 (Fall)**
- OTA 1110 Occupational Human Development
- OTA 1120 Exploring Occupations
- OTA 1130 Foundations of Occupational Therapy
- OTA 1140 OT Documentation with Fieldwork A
- OTA 1150 Medical Terminology for OTA

**Semester 2 (Spring)**
- OTA 1210 Group Process and Dynamics
- OTA 1220 Challenges to Mental Health
- OTA 1230 Challenges to Physical Health
- OTA 1240 Human Movement for Occupational Therapy
- OTA 1250 Assistive Technology and Environmental Adaptation
- OTA 1260 OT Documentation with Fieldwork B

**Semester 3 (Summer)**
- OTA 2110 Intervention and Treatment: Pediatrics

**Semester 4 (Fall)**
- OTA 2120 OT Intervention and Treatment: Mental Health
- OTA 2130 OT Intervention and Treatment: Adult
- OTA 2140 OT Intervention and Treatment: Geriatric
- OTA 2150 Management Skills for the OTA
- OTA 2160 Fieldwork C

**Semester 5 (Spring)**
- OTA 2210 Level II Fieldwork A
- OTA 2220 Level II Fieldwork B

**Courses to Consider:**
While not required, the following courses may enhance your Occupational Therapy education:

- Anatomy & Physiology II
- HSC III Medical Terminology
- PSYC 2130 Life Span Psychology
- SPAN 1010 Spanish I
- American Heart Association CPR Certification

For more information on the OTA program at JSCC contact:
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Academic Fieldwork Coordinator:
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