

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT, A.A.S. - OTA3

Occupational Therapy is a health care specialty that employs the use of purposeful activity, occupations and exercise for individuals who are limited by physical injury or illness, psychosocial dysfunction, cognitive dysfunction, developmental or learning disabilities, or the aging process, in order to maximize independence in Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), prevent disability and maintain health. Occupational therapy assistants work closely with occupational therapists to provide services that encompass evaluation, treatment, intervention and consultation.

Admissions: Acceptance into Piedmont Technical College's OTA program is competitive and is limited to 24 students to begin fall semester. See the college calendar or website for application dates.

To become eligible to apply for the Occupational Therapy Assistant program, applicants must complete the following:

1. Complete the following courses (minimum "C" grade required):

Courses	Course Title	Credit Hours
BIO 210	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 211	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
MAT 120	Probability and Statistics	3
PSY 201	General Psychology	3

2. Minimum grade point average for the above courses of 2.5. A grade point average calculator can be found under the Application and Advising tab.
3. Completion of 20 hours of observations in at least two different occupational therapy settings.
4. Completion of TEAS test in reading and math.
5. Good academic standing at the college.

Students are required to maintain a current American Heart Association "Basic Life Support" certification throughout the major studies courses.

Requirements

Courses	Course Title	Credit Hours
General Education Courses		
BIO 210	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 211	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
MAT 120	Probability and Statistics	3
PSY 201	General Psychology	3
PSY 203	Human Growth and Development	3
SPC 205	Public Speaking	3
Elective Humanities/Fine Arts (https://catalog.ptc.edu/student-handbook/advising-registration/general-education-courses/)		3
Subtotal		26

Required Core Subject Areas

OTA 101	Fundamentals of Occupational Therapy	3
OTA 105	Therapeutic Analysis in Occupational Therapy	3
OTA 142	OTA Clinical Introduction I (Level I Fieldwork)	1
OTA 144	OTA Clinical Introduction II (Level I Fieldwork)	1
OTA 155	Gerontology	2
OTA 162	PsychoSocial Dysfunction	3
OTA 164	Physical Dysfunction	6
OTA 176	Pediatric Development and Dysfunction	4
OTA 203	Kinesiology for Occupational Therapy	3
OTA 213	Group Process and Dynamics	2
OTA 245	Occupational Therapy Departmental Management	2
OTA 262	OTA Clinical Application I	7
OTA 264	OTA Clinical Application II	7
Subtotal		44
Total Hours		70

Graduation Plan

Enrollment in clinical coursework requires admission to the program. See Application and Advising section for more information.

Fall Start

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
Fall Semester		
BIO 210	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
ENG 101	English Composition I	3
MAT 120	Probability and Statistics	3
PSY 201	General Psychology	3
		Hours
		13

Spring Semester

BIO 211	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
PSY 203	Human Growth and Development	3
SPC 205	Public Speaking	3
Elective Humanities/Fine Arts (https://catalog.ptc.edu/student-handbook/advising-registration/general-education-courses/)		3
		Hours
		13

Second Year

Fall Semester

OTA 101	Fundamentals of Occupational Therapy	3
OTA 105	Therapeutic Analysis in Occupational Therapy	3
OTA 203	Kinesiology for Occupational Therapy	3
OTA 245	Occupational Therapy Departmental Management	2
		Hours
		11

Spring Semester

OTA 142	OTA Clinical Introduction I (Level I Fieldwork)	1
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OTA 155	Gerontology	2
OTA 162	PsychoSocial Dysfunction	3
OTA 176	Pediatric Development and Dysfunction	4
Hours		10
Summer Semester		
OTA 144	OTA Clinical Introduction II (Level I Fieldwork)	1
OTA 164	Physical Dysfunction	6
OTA 213	Group Process and Dynamics	2
Hours		9
Third Year		
Fall Semester		
OTA 262	OTA Clinical Application I	7
OTA 264	OTA Clinical Application II	7
Hours		14
Total Hours		70

Application Process

This is a limited enrollment program that has special admissions requirements. These requirements must be completed before you can be accepted.

If you are a new student, there are three key steps to complete before entering the program:

- Step 1: Apply to the college and complete the enrollment process (<https://www.ptc.edu/admissions/new-students/>)
- Step 2: Take the necessary courses to become Program-Ready
- Step 3: Apply to the program

Are you Program-Ready?

Before applying for program entry, be sure you meet the requirements for acceptance. Start by connecting with an advisor and review program requirements.

We've also provided the resources below to assist you with the program acceptance process.

Fact Sheet

Fact Sheets are designed for students and advisors to review program-specific requirements and program application procedures. Please make an appointment with your advisor to discuss your academic goals and progress, and to develop your individualized degree plan.

Review the Fact Sheet (https://www.ptc.edu/sites/default/files/documents/new_healthcare_documents/ota-factsheet.pdf)

GPA Calculator

There are minimum GPA requirements for program-ready coursework. The Program-Ready GPA Calculator can be used to calculate your GPA.

Use GPA Calculator (https://websrv.ptc.edu/program_ready_gpa_calc/)

Application Worksheet

The application worksheet is used to calculate points toward competitive program entry.

Review the Worksheet (https://www.ptc.edu/sites/default/files/documents/new_healthcare_documents/ota-app-worksheet.pdf)

TEAS Testing

Candidates for entry into the Associate Degree Nursing program must take the TEAS test. When you are eligible for entry into the program, you must complete testing before starting the application process.

Learn More about Testing (<https://www.ptc.edu/college-resources/academic-resources/testing-center/healthcare-testing/>)

Health Care Program Acceptance Data

These are NOT the scores required to be accepted. These are scores from past applicants that were accepted. Since the applicant pool changes each time, there is no way to predict how high the application points need to be for acceptance into the program.

Acceptance Data (https://www.ptc.edu/sites/default/files/documents/new_healthcare_documents/hc-acceptance-data.pdf)

Guided Pathways

Guided Pathways are designed to assist students in scheduling the order of courses to become program-ready or to complete the Health Care Certificate for their desired program.

- College Prep Pathway (https://www.ptc.edu/sites/default/files/documents/new_healthcare_documents/ota-pathway-college-prep.pdf)
- College Ready Pathway (https://www.ptc.edu/sites/default/files/documents/new_healthcare_documents/ota-pathway-college-ready.pdf)
- Transitional Pathway (https://www.ptc.edu/sites/default/files/documents/new_healthcare_documents/ota-pathway-transitional.pdf)

Health Care FAQ

We strongly recommend that students review the Health Care Division FAQ to be fully aware of our program entry requirements.

Learn More (<https://www.ptc.edu/academics/schools-programs/health-care/program-ready-resources/health-care-faq/>)

Apply to the Program

Once you've taken the necessary steps to become program ready, it's time to apply to the program.

Applications are accepted for the fall entry into college health care programs on the following schedule:

- Application Dates - May 1-16
- Notification of Program Acceptance Emails Sent - Mid June*

Program applications must be submitted during the scheduled dates for this program to be considered.

Note: If you haven't already done so, you must apply to the college (<https://www.ptc.edu/admissions/new-students/>) before completing the program application.

Complete The Program Application (<https://ptcgwd.wufoo.com/forms/pehb2o70w1s8l3/>)

* Students accepted into any Health Care program will be required to attend a program orientation. Accepted students will NOT be excused from attending this mandatory orientation.

Current Student Resources

Occupational Therapy Assistant Handbook

Read the Handbook (https://www.ptc.edu/sites/default/files/documents/new_healthcare_documents/ota-handbook.pdf)

Health Care Division Handbook

This handbook is designed to be utilized in conjunction with the PTC Academic Catalog, PTC Student Calendar and Handbook and PTC Health Care webpages. Please refer to them for additional information.

Read the Handbook (https://www.ptc.edu/sites/default/files/documents/new_healthcare_documents/hc-handbook.pdf)

Health Care FAQ

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Health Care Readmission

Health Care readmission students who fail or withdraw from a Health Care curriculum class must complete and submit a readmission application in order to be considered for readmission.

Complete the Form (<https://www.ptc.edu/health-care-readmission/>)

Accreditation Information

The Piedmont Technical College OTA Program, is accredited by:

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200
North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929

(301) 652-AOTA
www.acoteonline.org (<http://www.acoteonline.org/>)

Graduates are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT). Successful completion of this exam entitles the individual to practice as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) under the supervision of a registered occupational therapist. In addition, most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a criminal conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT

certification examination or attain state licensure. To learn more about the ACOTE standards, visit www.ptc.edu/ACOTE (<http://www.ptc.edu/ACOTE/>).

The sponsoring institution (Piedmont Technical College) assumes primary responsibility for appointment of faculty, admission of students, and curriculum planning at all locations where the program is offered. This would include course content, satisfactory completion of the educational program, and granting of the degree. The sponsoring institution(s) must also be responsible for the coordination of classroom teaching and supervised fieldwork practice and for providing assurance that the practice activities assigned to students in a fieldwork setting are appropriate to the program.

Accreditation Status: Good standings (<https://acoteonline.org/schools/ota-associate/?cn-cat-in%5B%5D=6&cn-cat-in%5B%5D=0&cn-region=SC>)
ACOTE 2018: OTA Standards (<https://acoteonline.org/accreditation-explained/standards/>)

School Performance: Program performance data on the NBCOT certification examination (<https://www.nbcot.org/en/Educators/Home/#SchoolPerformance>)

NBCOT Certification

Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the NBCOT examination to become a practicing occupational therapy assistant. The examination is administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) (<https://www.nbcot.org/>), located at 12 South Summit Avenue, Suite 100, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. NBCOT's phone number is (301) 990-7979.

NBCOT eligibility: A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure. For entering students with a concern in this area, NBCOT can be contacted directly for information related to the Early Determination and Character Review process for approval to take the NBCOT certification examination. You can see the NBCOT Pass Rate at <https://secure.nbcot.org/data/schoolstats.aspx>. (<https://secure.nbcot.org/data/schoolstats.aspx>)

Program Outcomes

The OTA program documents the following program outcomes:

Outcome Data (https://www.ptc.edu/sites/default/files/documents/new_healthcare_documents/ota-outcomes.pdf)

Three year NBCOT examination pass rate at 80% or higher, regardless of the number of attempts.

Three year average job placement of not less than 75% within 12 months of graduation.

Program completion rates are evaluated annually by both the college and the program.

Cost of Attendance

Cost of Attendance (<https://www.ptc.edu/cost-financial-aid/tuition-fees/estimated-cost-attendance/>)

Program Student Learning Outcomes

The student learning outcomes of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program are centered on six broad-based themes:

Fundamentals of Practice

1. Adheres consistently to the American Occupational Therapy Association Code of Ethics and site's policies and procedures.
2. Adheres consistently to safety regulations. Anticipates potentially hazardous situations and takes steps to prevent accidents.
3. Uses sound judgment in regard to safety of self and others during fieldwork related activities.

Basic Tenets of Occupational Therapy

1. Clearly communicates the values and beliefs of occupational therapy, highlighting the use of occupation to clients, families, significant others and service providers.
2. Communicates the roles of the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant to clients, families, significant others and service providers.
3. Makes informed practice decisions based on published research and relevant informational resources.

Evaluation/Screening

1. Under the supervision of and in cooperation with the occupational therapist and /or occupational therapy assistant, accurately gathers relevant information regarding a client's occupations of self care, productivity, leisure, and the factors that support and hinder occupational performance.
2. Establishes service competency in assessment methods, including but not limited to interviews, observations, assessment tools, and chart reviews within the context of the service delivery setting.
3. Assists with interpreting assessments in relation to the client's performance and goals in collaboration with the occupational therapist.
4. Reports results accurately in a clear, concise manner that reflects the client's status and goals.
5. Develops client-centered and occupation-based goals in collaboration with the occupation therapist.

Intervention

1. In collaboration with the occupational therapist, establishes methods, duration and frequency of interventions that are client-centered and occupational-based. Intervention plans reflect context of setting.
2. Selects and sequences relevant interventions that promote the client's ability to engage in occupations.
3. Implements occupation-based interventions effectively in collaboration with clients, families, significant others, and service providers.
4. Grades activities to motivate and challenge clients in order to facilitate process.
5. Effectively interacts with clients to facilitate accomplishment of established goals.
6. Monitors the client's status in order to update, change, or terminate the intervention plan in collaboration with the occupational therapist.

Communication

1. Clearly and effectively communicates verbally and nonverbally with clients, families, significant others, colleagues, service providers, and the public.
2. Produces clear and accurate documentation according to site requirements. All writing is legible, using proper spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Professional Behaviors

1. Takes responsibility for attaining professional competence by seeking out learning opportunities and interactions with supervisor(s) and others.
2. Responds constructively to feedback.
3. Demonstrates consistent work behaviors including initiative, preparedness, dependability, and work site maintenance.
4. Demonstrates effective time management.
5. Demonstrates positive interpersonal skills including but not limited to cooperation, flexibility, tact, and empathy.
6. Demonstrates respect for diversity factors of others including but not limited to socio-cultural, socio economic, spiritual, and lifestyle choices.

OTA Program Mission Statement

The mission of the OTA program parallels the mission of Piedmont Technical College. High value is placed on the students' educational journey to reach his or her highest potential, a deep commitment to the health and wellness of the community, technological advances, sustainability, and pursuit of life-long learning to advance the field of occupational therapy in education and in practice.

1. Practice and promote excellence in teaching, learning, and educational service to insure that each OTA student has the opportunity to attain his or her highest potential.
2. Offer quality OTA courses that fulfill the theoretical and clinical education for students to pass the NBCOT exam, and to become ethically-grounded professional clinicians able to serve the needs of their community.
3. Develop fieldwork partnerships with hospitals, SNFs, sub-acute facilities, outpatient clinics, and schools with a comprehensive OT program and professionals who value safety, open communication, interdisciplinary approaches, and active mentorship for a positive and rewarding clinical experience.
4. Faculty commitment to student advisement and program completion.
5. Foster a cooperative and healthy environment facilitating awareness, understanding, and celebration of diversity.
6. Teach sustainability through proper care and maintenance of equipment and supplies, and encourage a paperless environment when possible.
7. Teach evidence-based theory and practice.
8. Strive to model best practices in theory, practice, and technology advancements.
9. Ensure public awareness and recognition of the value of OT through community relations, and state and federal political action.
10. Provide a safe and accessible learning and working environment.

11. Develop and support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.
12. Endorse the value of life-long learning through the students' educational experience.

The OTA program curriculum incorporates six central threads or themes that will be taught at varying degrees within the OTA program course content. The six central threads or themes are:

- Occupational Engagement
- Therapeutic Use of Self
- Clinical Reasoning
- Technology
- Evidence- Based Practice
- Life-Long Learning

The six curriculum threads are woven throughout the OTA curriculum. The specific course selection, sequence and content all make up a defined curriculum that is both progressive in the student's knowledge base and proceeds to an increase complex level of the students overall knowledge, as they progress through the OTA program. In addition, the curriculum was developed with the consideration of Piedmont Technical College, OTA program mission/philosophy, curriculum threads and the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

Piedmont Technical College assumes primary responsibility for appointment of faculty, admission of students and curriculum planning at all locations where the program is offered. This would include course content, satisfactory completion of the educational program and granting of the degree. Piedmont Technical College also assumes responsibility for the coordination of classroom teaching and supervised fieldwork practice and for providing assurance that the practice activities assigned to students in a fieldwork setting are appropriate to the program (adapted from ACOTE Standard A.1.4).