Occupational Therapy Assistant

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

(2 Years)

An Associate of Applied Science degree, a Bachelor of Applied Science, and a Bachelor of Science in Health Science degree are available.

Program Overview

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program is an associate of applied science program preparing students for licensure to practice as Occupational Therapy Assistants.

Occupational therapy is a profession that uses occupation to promote well-being and health among people of all ages and abilities. Occupations are goal-directed, meaningful pursuits that occupy a person's time each day. Occupations include work and productive activities, self-care or care of others, and leisure/recreational activities. Occupational therapists adapt the environment, tasks, or techniques to meet individual needs while helping each client develop new skills necessary to function productively. Occupational Therapy Assistants view every aspect of a client's life as important to his/her health.

Occupational therapy seeks to improve the quality of life for individuals who are at risk for physical, cognitive, mental or psychosocial impairments. Demand for occupational therapy assistants will increase to address the needs of a growing population of aging adults, children with developmental disabilities and those who struggle with traumatic injuries and illness. Working under the direction of an occupational therapist, the occupational therapy assistant helps individuals experiencing physical or mental illness or injury return to valued occupations.

The curative nature of occupational therapy is extremely broad and requires individuals with an interest in the complexity of humanity and occupations. One also needs an ability to think critically and creatively and be able to address occupational performance problems resulting from disease, trauma, and mental illness. To be well prepared, a student must enter the profession with a foundation in the liberal arts, biological, physical, and social sciences.

For information on entrance requirements and to obtain an information packet along with course descriptions, sequence, and financial information go to https://www.isu.edu/ota/.

Program Accreditation

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM (Program with Candidacy Status) The occupational therapy assistant program has applied for accreditation and has been granted Candidacy Status 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 (https://www.aota.org).

The program must have a preaccreditation review, complete an on-site evaluation, and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates 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.

For details on OTA program accreditation please visit the ACOTE website (http://www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Accreditation.aspx).

Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the Occupational Therapist Assistants administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) once accreditation has been granted.

After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist Assistant, Certified (OTA). In addition, most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination.

Program Detail

- Accepts students in August, starting fall of 2018.
- Requires 2 years to complete (Year 1 - Fall, Spring; Year 2 - Fall, Spring).
- Divided into three components: seated didactic instruction, laboratory demonstrations and practice, and practicum/externship placements.
- Practicum/externship placements may require working evening or weekend hours, and outside of the local area.
- Program requires the successful completion of 69-73 credit hours including prerequisites.
- Each course must be completed with a C or better before the student can progress in the program.

Degree Option

- Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

Career Opportunities

- School Districts
- Out-Patient Rehabilitation Clinics
- Home Health Agencies
- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Hospital
- Psychiatric settings

Faculty

Director and Instructor


Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and Instructor

Peterson, Barbara, Academic Field Work Coordinator, Instructor, Occupational Therapy Assistant. B.S. 1979, B.S.O.T. 1979, University of North Dakota. (2016)

Instructor

Associate of Applied Science Degree: Occupational Therapy Assistant

(2 Years)

Program Prerequisites
1. High School Diploma or GED;
2. Students must be qualified for college-level coursework in English and Math (See an advisor for details);
3. Completion of criminal background check and drug screening; and
4. Completion of the following courses with a grade of C or better:
   - HO 0106 Medical Terminology 2
   - BIOL 1100 Concepts Biology Human Concerns 4
     & 1100L and Concepts Biology Human Concerns Lab
   - or BIOL 1101 Biology I 4
     & 1101L and Biology I Lab
   - PSYC 1101 Introduction to General Psychology 3

Program Requirements
OTA 0102 Foundations of Occupational Therapy 2
OTA 0107 Therapeutic Activities 3
OTA 0110 Theory and Treatment of Psychosocial Dysfunction 4
OTA 0115 Level I Fieldwork Placement I 1
OTA 0117 Neurological Theory and Treatment 4
OTA 0121 Level I Fieldwork Placement 2 1
OTA 0124 Human Movement for Occupation 3
OTA 0120 Theory and Treatment of Physical Dysfunction 4
OTA 0211 Professional Transitions 2
OTA 0212 Occupational Therapy Practice Management 2
OTA 0216 Pediatric Theory and Treatment 4
OTA 0221 Level II Fieldwork Placement 1 7
OTA 0222 Level II Fieldwork Placement 2 7
COMM 1101 Principles of Speech 1 3
ENGL 1101 English Composition 3-4
or ENGL 1101P English Composition Plus
HO 0111 Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology 4-8
or BIOL 3301 Anatomy and Physiology 4
& 3301L and Anatomy and Physiology Lab
or BIOL 3302 Anatomy and Physiology 4
& 3302L and Anatomy and Physiology Lab
PSYC 3301 Abnormal Psychology I 3
Any Objective 3 course 3-4

Total Credits 69-75

Courses
OTA 0102 Foundations of Occupational Therapy: 2 semester hours.
This course introduces the student to the profession of occupational therapy and the health care system. The holistic approach of occupation as a concept and an orientation to ethics is provided. Information is presented that relates to the role of the occupational therapy assistant and includes the purpose, philosophy, and history of the profession. PREREQ: Acceptance into the program. F

OTA 0107 Therapeutic Activities: 3 semester hours.
This course will provide a conceptual overview of activity analysis and practice skill in the therapeutic use of technology, manual arts, media, and activity (occupation). Planning, preparation, learning methods, and safety factors are emphasized. Therapeutic occupations will be approached using occupational therapy terminology from the Practice Framework Domain and Process. COREQ: Acceptance into program. F

OTA 0110 Theory and Treatment of Psychosocial Dysfunction: 4 semester hours.
This course will present descriptions of psychosocial dysfunction commonly treated in occupational therapy. Theories of occupational therapy treatment will be explored and students will practice a variety of techniques used in identifying and treating psychosocial disorders to promote rehabilitative change. Reading assignments, discussions, presentations, practice application of standardized assessments in lab, and structured learning activities will be utilized to prepare students to interact effectively and safely in psychosocial treatment situations. PREREQ: Acceptance into the OTA program. OTA 0102, OTA 0107, PSYC 3301. S

OTA 0115 Level I Fieldwork Placement 1: 1 semester hour.
This course will provide directed observation and participation in selected aspects of the occupational therapy process to introduce students to the OTA field. PREREQ: Acceptance into OTA program. F

OTA 0117 Neurological Theory and Treatment: 4 semester hours.
Students will review basic neuroanatomy, neurophysiology and learn pathologies commonly seen in occupational therapy. Students will be introduced to concepts of rehabilitation and accepted treatment techniques through application of treatment principles in lab. Study of normal movement, abnormal movement, and the developmental sequence is included at the entry level of practice. PREREQ: Acceptance into program. HO 0111 or BIOL 3301 and BIOL 3302, OTA 0102, OTA 0107, OTA 0124. S

OTA 0121 Level I Fieldwork Placement 2: 1 semester hour.
This course is a continuation of Level 1 fieldwork and will provide directed observation and participation in selected aspects of the occupational therapy process. PREREQ: OTA 0115. S

OTA 0124 Human Movement for Occupation: 3 semester hours.
This course presents a study of the kinetics of human motion. Emphasis will be placed on normal motion and movement patterns in the context of activity and Occupational Therapy. Procedures for range of motion, manual muscle testing and movement analysis will be reinforced. The course will also introduce biomechanical principles, postural considerations and functional characteristics of the musculoskeletal system. PREREQ: Acceptance into the program. F

OTA 0210 Theory and Treatment of Physical Dysfunction: 4 semester hours.
The student will learn about physical pathologies, conditions, and disabilities commonly seen in occupational therapy as well as current evidence-based treatment techniques and methods. Treatment applications and rationale will be explored in lecture and laboratory with simulated treatment practice. PREREQ: Second-year student in good standing. BIOL 1101, HO 0111 or BIOL 3301 and BIOL 3302, OTA 0117. F

1. Contributes to a General Education requirement.
OTA 0211 Professional Transitions: 2 semester hours.
This course provides closure to the educational program following Fieldwork II placements. Emphasis is on portfolio development of treatment ideas and presentation, program evaluation, Fieldwork II experience analysis and synthesis, and final preparation for the certification examination. Upon completion, students should be able to enter the occupational therapy workforce with supportive documentation demonstrating progress toward meeting critical competencies set forth by the curriculum. PREREQ: Second-year student in good standing. OTA 0115 OTA 0121. F

OTA 0212 Occupational Therapy Practice Management: 2 semester hours.
Students will develop knowledge of responsibilities required to provide occupational therapy in a community or health care setting. Responsibilities include operations, supervisory requirements, quality assurance, and compliance with regulations. Planning and management of activity service programs are also included. Occupational therapy discussions will include current topics and issues in practice, promotion of the profession, and the changing role from student to practitioner. PREREQ: OTA 0102. S

OTA 0216 Pediatric Theory and Treatment: 4 semester hours.
Students will be introduced to commonly treated disorders in children and developmentally disabled individuals. Occupational therapy treatment techniques, rationale and application are presented. Laboratory experience will include entry level treatment skills and simulated treatment practice using purposeful activities (occupation). PREREQ: Second-year student in good standing. OTA 0110 and OTA 0117. F

OTA 0221 Level II Fieldwork Placement 1: 7 semester hours.
Students will participate in 8 week, full-time (or 320 hours) supervised clinical fieldwork experience in preparation for entry-level practice. Practice settings may include traditional and/or emerging practice areas. Students will integrate academic knowledge, including human growth/development, disease/disability, psychosocial factors, and client-centered, occupation-based treatment interventions in the provision of occupational therapy services across the lifespan. Outside assignments are required. PREREQ: Second-year student in good standing. All academic coursework (Year 1: Fall and Spring course sequence) must be completed with a C or better prior to beginning Level II Fieldwork. S

OTA 0222 Level II Fieldwork Placement 2: 7 semester hours.
Students will participate in 8 week, full-time (or 320 hours) supervised clinical fieldwork experience in preparation for entry-level practice. Practice settings may include traditional and/or emerging practice areas. Students will integrate academic knowledge, including human growth/development, disease/disability, psychosocial factors, and client-centered, occupation-based treatment interventions in the provision of occupational therapy services across the lifespan. Outside assignments are required. PREREQ: Second-year student in good standing. All academic coursework (Year 1: Fall, Spring Summer. Year 2: Fall, Spring course sequence) must be completed with a C or better prior to beginning Level II Fieldwork. PRE-or-COREQ: OTA 0221. S

OTA 0296 Independent Study: 1-8 semester hours.
Addresses specific learning needs of individuals for the enhancement of knowledge and skills within the program area under the guidance of an instructor. May be repeated. PREREQ: Permission of the instructor. D

OTA 0298 Special Topics: 1-8 semester hours.
This course is designed to address the specific needs of individuals. It will enable the students to upgrade their technical skills through part-time enrollment in units of instruction that are currently available through the program’s full-time pre-employment curriculum. PREREQ: Permission of instructor.