

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

This Selective Program has a competitive entry selection process based on a competitive point system. Application requirements are included in the description below.

Associate of Applied Science

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 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E, Bethesda, MD 20814. ACOTE'S telephone number is (301) 652-6611. Its web address is acoteonline.org, and email address is accred@aota.org.

Graduates of the program will be eligible to register 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 register for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure. In Texas, the COTA must obtain state licensure to practice under the supervision of a registered Occupational Therapist (OTR). This two-year (21 month) program prepares individuals for careers as Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTA). This program has a Competitive Entry selection process based on a competitive point system.

The mandate of the profession is to assist patients to develop life skills by providing services with the ultimate goal of increasing their performance and participation in desired daily occupations. The recipients of therapy are those who have encountered problems that interfere with their ability to function in any stage of their development. The scope of services includes physical, cognitive, and psychological and psychosocial disorders.

Occupational Therapy Assistants typically are employed in clinical or community settings working in out-patient clinics, in-patient rehabilitation centers, public schools and/or patients' homes. Supervision by an Occupational Therapist is required for practice in Texas.

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

The Fieldwork Level II capstone courses listed in the fifth semester must be completed within eighteen (18) months after the end of the academic/technical courses to be eligible for graduation.

Application Requirements

All applicants must:

- A. Participate in the required Prospective Student Information session. To schedule a session please contact Mari Ponce-Vargas, Guided Pathways Specialist, at marip@southtexascollege.edu or 956-872-3216. For additional information log onto <https://www.southtexascollege.edu/ota/>

or contact the Occupational Therapy Program at 956-872-3161 or 956-872-3035.

- B. Be admitted to the college as a high school graduate or GED equivalent
- C. Meet TSI College Readiness Standards, or meet TSI exemption standards.
- D. Complete all prerequisite courses with a minimum of "B" as listed in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Degree plan. BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I must be completed within the past five years and OTHA 1305 Principles of Occupational Therapy must be completed within the past two years. OTHA 1305 Principles of Occupational Therapy is offered in a Hybrid course format.
- E. Complete the HESI A2 (Admissions Assessment) Exam as follows: Achieve an English Language Composite Score of 75% or higher, a Science (Anatomy & Physiology) Score of 75% or higher, a Math Score of 75% or higher, and a Composite Score of 75% or higher. Scores must be current within the last 2 years. HESI A2 Exemptions are not permitted.
- F. Earn a minimum grade of "B" in "Principles of Occupational Therapy" course within the last two years.
- G. Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all courses, including transfer courses, and those completed at STC.
- H. Pass a criminal background check, 10-panel drug screen through approved providers, and complete all required immunizations including Hepatitis B series. Students with criminal histories must provide proof of licensure eligibility from the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE). This process may take up to 6 months to complete. For more information contact the NAH Clinical Affairs Specialist at 956-872-3022.
- I. Submit Documentation of Experience Forms as evidence of a minimum of twenty-five (25) hours of volunteer or work experience under the supervision of a COTA or OTR in two different settings, for a total of fifty (50) hours. One experience should be completed in an inpatient setting (hospital or nursing facility), and the other should be completed in a different type of setting such as an outpatient clinic or pediatric center. Home Health hours are not accepted. Therapists who supervise volunteer experiences cannot be a relative or personal friend of the student applicant.
- J. Meet Technical Standards as stated by the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program.
- K. Submit a completed Program application by stated deadline. For more information contact Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at 956-872-3216 or 956-872-3035 or access the information online at <https://www.southtexascollege.edu/ota/>.

Competitive Entry Selection Process

The OTA Program selection process is based on a Point System evaluation. Points are awarded for the following selection criteria: GPA of OTA Program prerequisite and general education courses, HESI A2 (Admissions Assessment) Exam scores, volunteer/experience forms, and other optional items listed on the Application Form (for example, completion of CSFH 0101 College Success for Healthcare course with a B or better, etc.). Qualified applicants are numerically ranked based on the number of acceptance points earned, and are either accepted or not accepted. Due to

program size limitations, a number of applicants who meet the additional program application requirements may not be admitted to the program. The typical number of new positions available on an annual basis is 20; the final number is dependent upon available resources. Should any of the accepted applicants decline admission, an alternate may be offered acceptance to the program. In the case of tied applicants, finalists will be chosen based on date of application

A new applicant pool is established for each admission period. Applicants who are not admitted for the current application period must re-apply to be considered for a later application period.

Program Application

OTA Program applications are available annually from the OTA Program Department. The deadline for submission is the fourth Friday in May of the current year. Selection of students is made one time a year during the summer. Newly selected students attend program orientation in the summer and begin program classes in the fall semester. A portion of the OTA Program course curriculum is provided in a virtual classroom format for students who are interested in and enrolled in the OTA program.

NOTE: Please see program web page for up-to-date program information, admissions requirements, selection process, curriculum changes, and application process at <https://www.southtexascollege.edu/ota/>.

Graduation Requirements

To earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree from the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, a student must meet college graduation requirements and complete all coursework as prescribed in the degree plan with a minimum grade of "C."

Licensure of Persons with Criminal Convictions

According to the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners OT Rule 374.5 the Board may revoke or suspend an existing valid license or disqualify a person from receiving or renewing a license because of a person's conviction of a felony or misdemeanor if the crime directly relates to the practice of occupational therapy.

Additional information regarding rules governing licensure may be found in the complete Occupational Therapy Rules located on the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners website: <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/>.

*STC Board Policy (#3337) applies to all students participating in a Nursing or Allied Health Program clinical course. This policy requires all students to pass a criminal background check and drug screening prior to enrolling in a clinical course. This policy is being implemented to ensure uniform compliance with healthcare agencies and state licensing regulations. Students having questions about this rule should see the Clinical Affairs Specialists, the OTA Program Chair or the Dean of the Nursing and Allied Health Division. All consultations are confidential.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to describe the various roles of occupational therapy as it relates to clients, families, and service providers.

2. Graduates will be able to explain and differentiate the distinct roles and responsibilities of the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant in the supervisory process.
3. Graduates will be able to effectively apply occupational therapy principles and intervention strategies in a clinical setting.
4. Graduates will be able to formulate an effective Professional Development Plan to facilitate ongoing learning.
5. Graduates will successfully pass the program Exit Exam by the end of the semester.
6. Graduates will be able to articulate the particular occupational therapy frame of reference and/or model of practice employed at their assigned fieldwork location.

Advisory Committee Members

Rosie Vallejo, OTR, McAllen
 Adina Santillan, COTA, San Juan
 Iris Dovalina, COTA, Mission
 Luis Martinez, OTR, Palmhurst
 Amanda Delgado, COTA McAllen
 Jenny Adame, COTA Rio Grande City
 Jesse Rodriguez, OTR McAllen

Occupational Therapy Assistant Associate of Applied Science

Students interested in this program must complete the pre-requisite courses prior to applying for admission. Any of the other general education courses may also be taken before applying for admission into the program. Grades made in these courses will be computed using a "point system" for the student selection process.

TSI Liable

Course	Title	Credit Hours
Pre-requisites		
Humanities Elective ¹		3
Select one of the following:		
HUMA 1301	Introduction to Humanities I	
PHIL 1301	Introduction to Philosophy	
PHIL 2303	Introduction to Formal Logic	
PHIL 2306	Introduction to Ethics	
PSYC 2314	Lifespan Growth and Development	3
BIOL 2401	Anatomy and Physiology I ¹	4
SPCH 1318	Interpersonal Communications ¹	3
ENGL 1301	Composition I ¹	3
OTHA 1305	Principles of Occupational Therapy	3
Credit Hours		19
First Year		
Fall		
OTHA 1409	Human Structure and Function in Occupational Therapy	4
OTHA 1415	Therapeutic Use of Occupations or Activities I	4
OTHA 1341	Occupational Performance from Birth to Adolescence	3
Credit Hours		11
Spring		
OTHA 1349	Occupational Performance of Adulthood	3
OTHA 1419	Therapeutic Interventions I	4

OTHA 2335	Health Care Management in Occupational Therapy	3
Credit Hours		10
Summer		
OTHA 2201	Pathophysiology in Occupational Therapy	2
Credit Hours		2
Second Year		
Fall		
OTHA 1253	Occupational Performance for Elders	2
OTHA 2405	Therapeutic Interventions II	4
OTHA 2160	Clinical -Occupational Therapy Assistant	1
OTHA 2209	Mental Health In Occupational Therapy	2
Credit Hours		9
Spring		
OTHA 2366	CAPSTONE: Practicum- OTA (A)	3
OTHA 2367	CAPSTONE: Practicum- OTA (B)	3
OTHA 2330	Workplace Skills for the OTA	3
Credit Hours		9
Total Credit Hours		60

¹ Identifies courses to fulfill minimum 15 credit hour General Education requirement

Students must complete all CAPSTONE coursework with a passing grade to be eligible for graduation from the OTA program.