

Admission Information Packet

Roane State Community College- Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

The Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) is a health professional who uses purposeful activity to enhance daily functional abilities of individuals across the lifespan who may be limited by physical injury or illness, psychosocial dysfunction, developmental or learning disabilities, poverty, cultural differences, or the aging process. The OTA works under the supervision of an occupational therapist (OT) and collaborates with others to maximize independence, prevent disability, and maintain the health of individuals who require services. Students are educated in the skills and techniques necessary to participate in assessment and treatment in accordance with the occupational therapy plan of care and within state and federal regulations.

The OTA curriculum includes a blend of online and hybrid courses coupled with face-to-face labs. All students are required to travel to the Oak Ridge campus a minimum of one day per week for labs. Level I and Level II fieldwork experiences are completed through virtual and community-based practice settings. Placement decisions are based on factors such as site availability, alignment with program philosophy, and geographic proximity to the student.

NOTE: All OTA students must complete Level II Fieldwork within 18 months following completion of academic preparation.

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 of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). Initial certification is a requirement for licensure in all states.

NOTE: A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination. A felony conviction may also affect fieldwork site placements.

Roane State Community College's OTA program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. (301) 652- AOTA.

Admission Requirements/Application Steps

The following items are all required for admission to the Occupational Therapy Program, but meeting these requirements does not guarantee admission:

1. Apply to Roane State, submit all required admissions documents (high school and college transcripts), and be accepted by the college.
2. Once accepted by the college, the student can then complete the Health Sciences application online through his/her RaiderNet account. Select "OTA" as the desired program of application.

Minimum academic requirements for Allied Health Science degree programs:

- Students under 21 years of age must attain a composite score of 20 or above on the ACT taken within the last 3 years OR attain a GPA of 2.50 or better after completion of at least 9

semester hours of general education courses required for the OTA program prior to the published application deadline.

- Students 21 years of age or older must attain a GPA of 2.50 or better after completion of 9 hours of general education courses required for the OTA program prior to the published application deadline. These requirements are listed in the college catalog under the OTA program.
- Complete any required learning support courses

General Education Course Requirements

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Notes
ENGL 1010	Composition I	3	
BIOL 2010	Anatomy/Physiology I	4	Must be taken within 5 years of the application deadline. Must have a "C" or better in this course. (Minimum grade requirement is pending TBR approval)
BIOL 2020	Anatomy/Physiology II	4	Must be taken within 5 years of the application deadline. Must have a "C" or better in this course. (Minimum grade requirement is pending TBR approval)
Humanities Elective	Introduction to Ethics Preferred (PHIL 1040)	3	See catalog for eligible classes in art, music, theatre, and philosophy. If more than one is taken, the highest grade is applied to admission points.
ALHS 1211	Terminology for Medical Communications	2	Offered online at Roane State
PSYC 2130	Lifespan Development Psychology	3	
PSYC 2230	Abnormal Psychology	3	

The deadline to apply for the OTA Program is March 15th. Applications received after the March 15th deadline will NOT be considered. The student must reapply every year they seek to be an applicant. Applications reopen during the Fall semester.

OTA program application requirement:

1. Observation Hours Form submitted by the application deadline:
 - a. There are two options to meet this requirement: **Do not do both options. You do either option 1 or 2. Note the videos are worth fewer points.**
 - i. **Option 1 (10pts)** - complete 8 hours of OT observation. Observations may be either of in-person/face-to-face OT treatment OR observations of OT services delivered through telehealth technology.
 - ii. **Option 2 (8 pts)**-Please review the following informational video approved by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and the information page on the AOTA website.
 1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwwOXILYQ4Q>
 2. <https://www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Considering-OT-Career.aspx>
 Summarize what you have learned in less than 750 words.
2. The Recommendation Form should be completed by two professionals in the community who are familiar with you. Ex. Previous employer, coworker, teacher, etc. This must be submitted by the application deadline. Forms must be scanned and sent electronically to hsnadmissions@roanestate.edu
3. Meet the Core Performance Standards outlined below:

CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND EXAMPLES

Critical thinking	Critical thinking is sufficient for clinical judgment and reasoning skills associated with occupational therapy intervention plans and therapeutic use of self	Identify cause/effect relationships in clinical situations; develop detailed occupational therapy intervention plans based on OT goals
Interpersonal skills	Interpersonal skills are sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. Demonstrate appropriate therapeutic use of self during case study individual and group simulated interventions.	Establish rapport with clients/caregivers and colleagues; possess emotional maturity and demonstrate self-control
Communication	Communication abilities are sufficient for interacting with others in verbal and written form	Explain treatment procedures, initiate education to consumers, document OT treatment including client response.
Mobility	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in a variety of environments/context	Move around in client's environment, small workspaces, treatment areas, and a variety of environments
Motor skills	Gross and fine motor abilities are sufficient to provide safe and effective OT treatment interventions with the client's across the life span	Proper maintenance and use of equipment; safely position and transfer client; safety awareness for the client and others provided throughout interventions

Hearing	Hear/respond to monitor alarms, emergency signals, and client's/caregiver's communications/needs	Hear/respond to monitor alarms, emergency signals, and client's/caregiver's communications/needs.
Visual	Visual ability is sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in OT treatment	Visually observe client responses to OT interventions; observe client's movements patterns, motor skills, occupational performance/participation; visually observe caregiver performance with client
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and implementation of OT interventions	Perform palpation, apply appropriate manual pressure; hands-on as related to therapeutic intervention

Admission and Acceptance Timeline

September 15- March 15th

1. Submit the online Health Science Application
2. Complete all 1st-year prerequisite courses and observation hours. Refer to OTA program curriculum
3. Attend an OTA group advising session
4. Transfer of credit from other institutions

Month of April

1. Admission points are assigned based on OTA Admission Point System
2. Highest ranking applicants invited to interview via RaiderNet Email
3. Interview/OTA Essay points applied
4. Top 20 applicants and up to 5 alternatives selected as OTA candidates
5. Candidates are approved by Allied Health Admissions Committee

Month of May

1. Final candidate status notification via RaiderNet email
2. OTA Summer Orientation class begins during the Summer Term.

Books, Supplies, and Additional Program Expenses *These expenses are variable and subject to change.*

Visit the bookstore for book titles and prices.

- Books (cost dependent on point of purchase, publisher, and format)
- Supplies (may include uniforms; clinical and lab supplies such as goniometers, gait belts, and personal protective equipment)

- Liability Insurance (\$13.25/annually) included in tuition and fees
- My Record Tracker (\$17.50/annually)
- Physical examination and immunizations (may be obtained at the local health dept)
- CPR certification (Infant/Child/Adult **Basic Life Support through American Heart Association ONLY**- Cost will vary)
- Criminal background check (\$45) and drug screen (\$39)

There are two separate OTA Admission Point systems based on general education hours completed. These are found below.

Roane State Community College

OTA Admission Point System

For students with 9 or more completed college hours

	Description	Points Breakdown	Points Awarded
General Education Hours Completed	Total number of general education credit hours completed toward the OTA degree plan ENGL 1010 (3hrs) BIOL 2010 (4hrs) BIOL 2020 (4hrs) ALHS 1211 (2hrs) PSYC 2130 (3hrs) PSYC 2230 (3hrs) HUM Elec (3hrs)	17 or more hours- 5 pts 13-16 hours- 3 pts. 9-12- 2pts	_____pts
GPA	Calculated on general education courses that are 1) required by the OTA degree plan 2) completed by the end of the spring semester of the application deadline.	3.90-4.00= 15 pts 3.80- 3.899= 14pts 3.70- 3.799= 13pts 3.60- 3.699= 12pts 3.50- 3.599= 11pts 3.40- 3.499= 10pts 3.30- 3.399= 9pts 3.20- 3.299= 8pts 3.10- 3.199= 7pts 3.00- 3.099= 6pts 2.90-2.99= 5pts 2.80-2.89= 4pts 2.70-2.79= 3pts 2.60-2.69= 2pts 2.50-2.59= 1pt	_____pts
Recommendation Letters (only 2)	Recommendation letters from two professionals in the community.	33-40pts- 3pts 24-32pts- 2pts 16-23pts- 1pt (per recommendation letter)	_____pts
BIOL 2010 BIOL 2020	Earned A or B in the first attempt	A- 2pts B- 1pt C- 0pts	_____pts

Observation Hours Submitted	Submission of 1 of the 2 options listed in the admission requirements.	10pts- option 1 8pts- option 2	_____pts
Interview	Applicants will be interviewed by OTA faculty and one non-OTA faculty member. Categories during the interview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional appearance • Communication skills • Knowledge of profession and necessary skills • Motivation related to patient care • Achievement and response to feedback • Work ethic and initiative • Communication and teamwork 	Max 20 pts	_____pts
Reflective Writing Paper:	Applicants will be asked to complete a written reflection on pre-selected questions following onsite interview.	Rubric will be provided during interview.	_____pts

Total Points- _____ (max points of 75)

Roane State Community College

OTA Admission Point System

For students under 21 with fewer than 9 or more completed college hours

Category	Description	Points Breakdown	Points Awarded
For students under 21 with fewer than 9 or more completed college hours for general education requirements listed in the OTA Degree Plan		ACT scores: 28 or higher – 24 points 26-27 – 20 points 24-25 – 15 points 22-23 – 12 points 20-21 – 10 points Below 20 - ineligible	_____pts
Recommendation Letters (ONLY 2)	Recommendation letters from two professionals in the community.	33-40pts- 3pts 24-32pts- 2pts 16-23pts- 1pt (per recommendation letter)	_____pts
Observation Hours Submitted	Submission of 1 of the 2 options listed in the admission requirements.	10pts- option 1 8pts- option 2	_____pts
Interview	Applicants will be interviewed by OTA faculty and one non-OTA faculty member. Categories during the interview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional appearance • Communication skills • Knowledge of profession and necessary skills • Motivation related to patient care • Achievement and response to feedback • Work ethic and initiative • Communication and teamwork 	Max 20 pts	_____pts

Reflective Writing Paper	Applicants will be asked to complete a written reflection on pre-selected questions following an onsite interview.	Rubric will be provided during the interview.	_____ pts
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Total- _____ (Max points of 75)

**Roane State Community College
Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
Recommendation Form**

Applicant Name: _____

The individual named above is seeking admission to the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Roane State Community College. The information you provide will assist the OTA Admissions Committee in determining this individual’s qualifications and potential success in the OTA program. Comments will be held confidential if the named individual has waived their right to review the recommendation. Upon completion, please return the evaluation to the applicant by placing the completed form in an envelope with your signature across the seal to ensure confidentiality or scan and send to hsnadmissions@roanestate.edu, subject line must include the words “OTA Recommendation” with first and last name of applicant.

Name and title of professional completing this form: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Date: _____

How do you know the applicant: _____

How long have you known the applicant: _____

Please rate the applicant using the scale provided that best reflects your judgment of the applicant:

5-Exceptional 4-Above Average 3-Average 2-Below Average 1-Poor 0-No basis for Judgement

	Rating
Time Management and Organization Skills	
Demonstrates Professional Behavior	
Maintains a professional appearance	
Demonstrates appropriate interpersonal skills when interacting with supervisors, coworkers, patients/clients, and others.	
Responds appropriately to constructive feedback	
Accepts responsibility for his/her behavior and is ethical	
Demonstrates initiative and inquiry	
Demonstrates good communications skills both verbally and in written	

/40pts

Comments: _____
