

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Information Packet

Roane State Community College

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

Overview of the Profession

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.

Overview of the OTA Program of Study

The OTA curriculum includes a blend of online and hybrid courses coupled with face-to-face labs. Students will need access to the Roane State Community College (RSCC) Learning Management System (Momentum) for asynchronous and synchronous coursework. Students will also need the ability to access Zoom. Students have the option to use RSCC Computer lab for these components of the OTA program. All students are required to travel to the Oak Ridge campus for 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.

Overview of OTA Curriculum

General Education Course Requirements:

- General Education Course Prerequisites: These courses must be successfully completed prior to beginning fall OTA coursework once accepted into the program:
 - BIOL 2010 Human Anatomy and Physiology I: 4 credit hours- Must be taken within 5 years of the application deadline.
 - BIOL 2020 Human Anatomy and Physiology II: 4 credit hours - Must be taken within 5 years of the application deadline.
- General Education Course Requirements: These courses must be completed prior to starting the second-year spring courses (OTAP 2610 Level IIA and OTAP 2620 Level IIB).

- ENGL 1010 Comp I: 3 credit hours
- PSYC 2130 Lifespan Development Psychology: 3 credit hours
- PSYC 2230 Abnormal Psychology: 3 credit hours
- Humanities elective: PHIL 1040 Introduction to Ethics preferred: 3 credit hours. 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 Communication: 2 credit hours or HIMT 1300 Medical Terminology: 3 credit hours
- Completion of required general education courses with a grade of “C” or higher for both the admission and progression.

OTA Core Courses:

These courses must be completed in the sequence provided once enrolled in the OTA program. It is the student’s responsibility to review the catalog and complete course prerequisites for each individual OTA course. Students who have not completed the mandatory course prerequisites will not be allowed to enroll in the next sequenced OTA courses. Students accepted into the OTA program must meet certain affiliate requirements before they can attend the required fieldwork placements.

1st Fall

OTAP 1210 Foundation of OT
 OTAP 1320 Exploring Occupations
 OTAP 1220 OT Documentation w/Level 1A
 OTAP 1340 Human Movement for Occupation

1st Spring

OTAP 1520 Theory and Treatment: Psych
 OTAP 1240 OT Documentation w/Level IB
 OTAP 1510 Neurological Theory and Treatment

2nd Fall

OTAP 2510 Physical Dysfunction
 OTAP 2220 Practice Management
 OTAP 2520 Pediatrics
 OTAP 2110 Level IC

2nd Spring

OTAP 2610 Level II A
 OTAP 2620 Level II B

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 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E, Bethesda, MD 20814. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-6611 and its web address is www.acoteonline.org.

Additional RSCC OTAP Admissions Information:

1. Students are encouraged to attend an OTA group advising session, which is offered 2-3 times in the fall and spring semesters. Dates of OTA group advising sessions are located on the OTA program webpage under the Overview tab and in Just a Minute publication.
2. Students who have been involved in another healthcare program must complete the admissions process for the RSCC OTA program and meet the same standards and criteria as others pursuing an associate of applied science degree in OTA at RSCC. Transfer discipline specific coursework credits will be assessed on an individual basis. Additional criteria for transfer into the RSCC OTA program also include:
 - a. Space available in the program
 - b. Academic good standing
 - c. Letter of recommendation from transferring Program Director

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 clients 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

4. OTAP Program Expenses, including books, supplies, and additional program expenses:
(expenses are variable and subject to change)
The following are additional approximate costs for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program by semester:

Material	Estimated Cost	Semesters Following OTA Academic Map
CPR Certification - Must be BSL through American Heart Association	\$80.00	1 st fall semester of OTA Coursework
Immunization Requirements	Cost dependent on clinical Affiliate Immunization Requirements	Varies dependent on clinical affiliate immunization requirements
Textbook	Cost dependent on point of purchase, publisher, format (Some textbooks are utilized for more than one course and semester – price cost based on utilization of book for additional courses) 1 st semester fall - \$ 437.00 2 nd semester spring - \$ 588.25 3 rd semester fall - \$ 209.00 4 th semester spring - No New Textbooks	
Criminal Background Check (fieldwork sites may have their own requirements)	\$50.10	1 st fall semester of OTA Coursework
Drug Screen (fieldwork sites may have their own requirements)	\$39.00	1 st fall semester of OTA Coursework
MRT	1 st year - \$17.50 2 nd year - \$7.50	1 st fall semester of OTA Coursework then annual renewal
Professional Liability Insurance	\$13.95 annually	Included in tuition fees every fall semester while enrolled in OTA coursework
In-class projects	\$40.00	Per semester once enrolled in OTA coursework
AOTA Student Membership Fees	\$75.00	1 st fall semester of OTA Coursework
Recommended NBCOT Practice Exam	\$30.00	4 th semester spring of OTA coursework
Optional NBCOT Study Pack	\$85.00	4 th semester spring of OTA coursework
State of Tennessee Licensing Fee	\$85.00	4 th semester spring of OTA coursework
NBCOT Examination fee	\$540.00	4 th semester spring of OTA coursework
Total Additional Costs	\$2,297.30	

Approximate total cost for OTA Program following the RSCC OTA Academic Map including additional approximate expenses: \$16,321.30

*RSCC Foundation may be able to assist with examination and licensing fees.

5. Information regarding progression and retention once in the OTA program

- Students must maintain a “C” in core OTA courses
 - Failure to meet the minimum grade required for any OTA course will result in dismissal from the OTA program. Courses must be completed in sequential order.
- Must pass the course competencies within each OTA course with a 75 or better
- Maintain an exam average of 75 or better
- Students must demonstrate safe and ethical clinical behavior
- Adhere to the OTA Policies
- Adhere to RSCC Academic Misconduct Policy
- Retention in the OTAP program is contingent upon meeting all conditions as outlined in course syllabi

Students who withdraw from one or more OTAP courses will be ineligible to progress to the next semester and/or term.

Failure to adhere to any of the above could result in dismissal from the RSCC OTA program.

**Students can reapply for admission to the program by following the readmission policy found in the OTA student handbook. Students will either remain dismissed or be allowed to reenter the program pending available space.*