

# Occupational Therapy Assistant

10-514-1 | Associate Degree | 64 Credits | Two Year | Financial Aid-Eligible

**Campuses:** Ashland\*, New Richmond\*, Rice Lake \* \*via Hybrid instruction

\* Students in selected health sciences programs will travel to the Shell Lake Health Education Center. Travel requirements are customized to meet individual program course competencies.

## Program Overview

Occupational therapy assistants help people participate in things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). Occupational therapy is both an art and a science. Being an occupational therapy assistant allows you to “think outside the box” while applying science in order to best meet the needs of clients.

Occupational therapy assistants work with individuals of all ages, from the first day to last day of life. We work with those who are recovering from disability and disease, those who are working to overcome mental health challenges, and those who need support with healthy living and lifestyle changes.

In traditional settings, occupational therapy assistants work under the supervision of the registered occupational therapist to provide hands-on services. Some settings allow for more creativity than others but all settings require an occupational therapy assistant to use individualized approaches to help clients perform their daily occupations. Occupational therapy assistants can work in a variety of settings such as hospitals, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, psychiatric facilities, day treatment, geriatric settings, community based practice and private practice.

## Admission Requirements

- Complete Online application form
- Submit an official high school (or HSED/GED®) transcript with graduation date.
  - If you are a current high school student, you can be admitted with an unofficial, or official, current transcript. Your final official transcript with graduation date must be submitted prior to the program starting or you will be withdrawn from the program.
- Review and sign Background Check Disclosure
- Out-of-State applicants sign a Professional Licensure Disclosure
- Complete admissions meeting with a Northwood Tech counselor (academic admission requirements apply - see page 37 for more information)

## Program-Specific Requirements

- Submit Background Check fee
- Have an acceptable Wisconsin Caregiver Background Check, National Criminal Background Check, Minnesota Caregiver Background Check (if applicable), and other states, if applicable
- Complete physical exam and health requirements, including immunizations
- Possess current certification of “BLS Basic Life Support”
- Review and sign Health Sciences Confidentiality Statement
- Participate in a mandatory program orientation session

## Program Outcomes

Occupational Therapy Assistant graduates will be able to:

- Practice within the distinct role and responsibility of the occupational therapy assistant
- Serve a diverse population in a variety of systems that are consistent with entry level practice
- Seek out learning opportunities to keep current with best practice
- Apply occupational therapy principles and intervention tools to achieve

expected outcomes

- Demonstrate professional behaviors, ethical standards, values, and attitudes of the occupational therapy profession
- Advocate for the profession, services, and consumers

## Career Outlook

Typical positions available after graduation include:

- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA)
- Activities Director/Coordinator
- Case Manager
- Community Support Worker
- Life Skills Trainer
- Mental Health Technician
- Community Educator
- Paraprofessional, Specialized

## Professional Licensure and/or Certification Information

Northwood Tech's Occupational Therapy Assistant program is designed to prepare students to meet the educational requirements for licensure to be employed/practice in the state of Wisconsin and Minnesota. The College has not determined and does not guarantee its required courses meet the requirements for preparation, examinations, or licensure in states/territories other than Wisconsin and Minnesota as documented on the licensure and certification disclosure webpage. Students who may be seeking professional licensure or certification in states/territories other than Wisconsin or Minnesota should contact the appropriate licensing board in the state to verify that the Northwood Tech program meets licensure or certification requirements. To be eligible for testing and/or licensing in the state of Wisconsin or Minnesota, you may be required to obtain a social security number. Please click below to review more details about accreditation and licensure:

[National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy \(NBCOT\)](#)

[State of Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services](#)

The Associate Degree level 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 501E, Bethesda, MD, 20814. ACOTE's telephone number, c/o AOTA, is (301) 652-AOTA and its web address is [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org).



Graduates of the program 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.

## Required Courses

Number	Course Title	Credits (cr.)
<b>Program Courses</b>		
10514171	Introduction to Occupational Therapy*	3 cr.
10514172	Medical and Psychosocial Conditions*	3 cr.
10514173	Activity Analysis and Applications*	2 cr.
10514174	OT Performance Skills*	4 cr.
10514175	Psychosocial Practice*	3 cr.
10514176	OT Theory and Practice*	3 cr.
10514178	Geriatric Practice*	3 cr.
10514179	Community Practice*	2 cr.
10514184	OTA Fieldwork I*	2 cr.
10514185	OT Practice and Management*	2 cr.
10514186	OTA Fieldwork IIA*	5 cr.
10514187	OTA Fieldwork IIB*	5 cr.
10514189	OT Phys Rehab Practice*	4 cr.
10514190	OT Pediatric Practice*	4 cr.
<b>Program Courses Total</b>		<b>45 cr.</b>
<b>General Education Courses</b>		
10801136	English Composition 1	3 cr.
10801196	Oral/Interpersonal Communication or	
10801198	Speech	3 cr.
10806177	General Anatomy and Physiology	4 cr.
10809188	Developmental Psychology	3 cr.
10809196	Introduction to Sociology	3 cr.
10809198	Introduction to Psychology	3 cr.
<b>General Education Courses Total</b>		<b>19 cr.</b>
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>		<b>64 cr.</b>

Fieldwork: Fieldwork IIA and IIB will be completed in two different settings under the supervision of a COTA or OTR. OTA students must complete Level II Fieldwork within 18 months following completion of the academic preparation.

\* Requires a prerequisite and/or corequisite that must be completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better.

You must earn a grade point of 2.0 or better in all required courses.

Course repeat policies exist that allow for only a certain number of retakes within this program; please refer to the policies for details.

See pages 221-302 for course descriptions.