

Occupational Therapy Assistant

10-514-1 Associate Degree (two-year)

Financial Aid Eligible

Campuses: *Ashland, *New Richmond, *Rice Lake *via ITV (Interactive Television) instruction



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 application form and submit with fee (fee waiver may apply if previously submitted)
- Have earned a high school diploma or GED certificate; current high school seniors must provide both a current high school transcript and a final transcript with confer date
- Review and sign Background Check Disclosure
- Review and sign Functional Abilities Disclosure
- Complete admissions meeting with a WITC counselor (academic admission requirements apply - see page 30 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
- Pass a physical exam, have current immunizations, and demonstrate negative status for tuberculosis (Tb)
- Possess current certification of “CPR for Healthcare Providers” or equivalent
- Review and sign Nursing and Allied Health Division Confidentiality Statement
- Attend 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
- Value lifelong learning and the need 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

Employability Essentials

The WITC Employability Essentials to think critically, communicate effectively and be professional will be assessed in all technical diploma and associate degree program students annually.

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

The occupational therapy/occupational therapy assistant program is accredited 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. 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 in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) (www.nbcot.org/). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). Most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination.

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

Curriculum

Number	Course Title	Credits (cr.)
Technical Studies Courses		
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.
10514177	Assistive Technology and Adaptations *	2 cr.
10514178	Geriatric Practice *	3 cr.
10514179	Community Practice *	2 cr.
10514182	Physical Rehabilitation Practice *	3 cr.
10514183	Pediatric Practice *	3 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.
Technical Studies Total		45 cr.
General Studies Courses **		
10801136	English Composition 1	3 cr.
10801196	Oral/Interpersonal Communication	3 cr.
10806177	General Anatomy and Physiology	4 cr.
10809172	Introduction to Diversity Studies	3 cr.
10809188	Developmental Psychology	3 cr.
10809196	Introduction to Sociology	3 cr.
10809198	Introduction to Psychology	3 cr.
General Studies Total		22 cr.
ELECTIVES		3 cr.
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS		70 cr.

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.

** See pages 40-42 for course descriptions.

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.

Graduate Employment Information

(WITC Graduate Survey Responses 2017-2018)

Number of graduates	18	Number employed	14	% employed in WITC district	50%
Number of responses	16	Percent employed	93%	Range of yearly salary	\$35,357-\$53,556
Number available for employment	15	Employed in related field	12	Average yearly salary	\$45,626

career vision

2019/2020

Course Descriptions

(See pages 40-42 for General Studies course descriptions)

10514171

Introduction to Occupational Therapy - Credits: 3

Provides an overview of history, philosophy, ethics, and scope of occupational therapy practice. Examines legal responsibilities, professional resources, and organization. Students practice basic skills related to therapeutic relationships and determine their own suitability to a career in occupational therapy.

10514172

Medical and Psychosocial Conditions - Credits: 3

Introduces medical and psychosocial conditions as they relate to occupational therapy practice. Topics include etiology, symptomatology, treatment, and contraindications. PREREQUISITE: Admission to OTA program and COREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514173 Activity Analysis and Appl, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10514173

Activity Analysis and Applications - Credits: 2

Provides instruction in activity analysis with hands-on experience in activities across the lifespan. Students apply the teaching/learning process and adhere to safety regulations. PREREQUISITE: Admission to OTA program and COREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology.

10514174

OT Performance Skills - Credits: 4

Emphasis on the development of skills related to assessment and intervention in the areas of sensory, motor, cognition and communication. PREREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, 10514173 Activity Analysis and Applications, 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology and COREQUISITES: 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice.

10514175

Psychosocial Practice - Credits: 3

Examines the role of the OTA in the service delivery to individuals affected by mental health conditions. Provides opportunity for development of skills related to psychosocial assessment and interventions. PREREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, 10514173 Activity Analysis and Applications, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology and COREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice.

10514176

OT Theory and Practice - Credits: 3

Examines the theoretical foundations that guide OT practice. Apply group dynamics and demonstrate leadership skills. PREREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, 10514173 Activity Analysis and Applications, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology and COREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice.

10514177

Assistive Technology and Adaptations - Credits: 2

Explores technologies that support delivery of OT services. Emphasis on competency related to computer skills, ergonomics, adaptive devices, and environments. PREREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, 10514173 Activity Analysis and Applications, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology and COREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice.

10514178

Geriatric Practice - Credits: 3

Examines the role of the OT in the service delivery to elders in a variety of settings. Includes analysis of the impact of age-related changes and disease processes on the function of the elderly. PREREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, 10514173 Activity Analysis and Applications, and 10806177 General Anatomy and Physiology and COREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, and 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations.

10514179

Community Practice - Credits: 2

Explores practice options and interventions for occupation-based community practice. Students articulate the unique role of occupational therapy within the community. PREREQUISITES: 10514171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy, 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions, 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice and COREQUISITES: 10514182 Physical Rehabilitation Practice, 10514183 Pediatric Practice, and 10514184 OTA Fieldwork I.

10514182

Physical Rehabilitation Practice - Credits: 3

Explores interventions relative to major physical disability diagnoses seen in OT practice. Evaluation, treatment interventions, and documentation are emphasized relative to the biomechanical, neurodevelopmental, and rehabilitative approaches to practice. PREREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice and COREQUISITES: 10514179 Community Practice, 10514183 Pediatric Practice, and 10514184 OTA Fieldwork I.

10514183

Pediatric Practice - Credits: 3

Explores interventions relative to major pediatric diagnoses seen in OT practice. Evaluation, treatment interventions, and documentation are emphasized within the context of the child's occupations. PREREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice and COREQUISITES: 10514179 Community Practice, 10514182 Physical Rehabilitation Practice, 10514184 OTA Fieldwork I, and 10809188 Developmental Psychology.

10514184

OTA Fieldwork I - Credits: 2

Integrate classroom theory and practice into a Fieldwork Level I experience. Provides experiences to assist in the development of communication, professional and observational skills. PREREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, 10514177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice and COREQUISITES: 10514179 Community Practice, 10514182 Physical Rehabilitation Practice, and 10514183 Pediatric Practice.

10514185

OT Practice and Management - Credits: 2

Provides opportunities to practice clinical management skills, continuous quality improvement measurement, and administrative concepts and procedures. Students create a professional development plan. PREREQUISITES: All required courses with a grade point of 2.0 or better and COREQUISITES: 10514186 OTA Fieldwork IIA or 10514187 OTA Fieldwork IIB.

10514186

OTA Fieldwork IIA - Credits: 5

Develop skills and behaviors necessary for entry-level occupational therapy assistant practice. Provides a different clinical practice setting than OTA Fieldwork IIB. PREREQUISITES: All required courses with a grade point of 2.0 or better and COREQUISITES: 10514185 OT Practice and Management and 10514187 Fieldwork IIB.

10514187

OTA Fieldwork IIB - Credits: 5

Develop skills and behaviors necessary for entry-level occupational therapy assistant practice. Provides a different clinical practice setting than OTA Fieldwork IIA. PREREQUISITES: All required courses with a grade point of 2.0 or better and COREQUISITES: 10514185 OT Practice and Management and 10514186 Fieldwork IIA.