

Occupational Therapy Assistant

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

Financial Aid Eligible

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

* Students in 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 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 (official) transcript with confer date
- Review and sign Background Check Disclosure
- Review and sign Functional Abilities Disclosure
- Complete admissions meeting with a Northwood Tech 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)
- COVID vaccination---highly recommended
NOTE: Northwood Technical College cannot guarantee clinical placement or ability to progress in the program if a student is not able to meet the clinical site requirements including but not limited to; influenza vaccine, covid vaccine, negative tb skin test/quantiferon, up to date acceptable background check, or any other clinical requirements required by the clinical site. Northwood Technical College cannot guarantee clinical placement if the clinical site must be changed due to students inability to meet the site specific requirements. Many sites require the student information 4-6 weeks prior to the clinical start date.
- Possess current certification of "BLS Basic Life Support" or equivalent
- 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

Professional Licensure and/or Certification Information

Northwood Tech's Occupational Therapy Assistant program prepares students to obtain the required licensure to be employed/practice in the state of Wisconsin. The College does not guarantee its curriculum matches the requirements for preparation, examinations, or licensure for other states. 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](#)

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

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 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. 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 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.



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.
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.
Technical Studies Total		45 cr.
General Studies Courses**		
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.
General Studies Total		19 cr.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS 64 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 35-38 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.

Course Descriptions

(See pages 35-38 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. PREREQUISITE: Admission to the OTA program and COREQUISITES: 10514173 Activity Analysis and Applications and 10514172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions.

10514172

Medical and Psychosocial Conditions - Credits: 3

Introduces medical and psychosocial conditions as they relate to occupational therapy practice. Topics include etiology, symptomology, 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 assessment in the areas of sensory perceptual skills, motor skills, cognition skills. 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, 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 completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better, 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, 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 completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, and 10514176 OT Theory and Practice completed with a grade point of 2.0 or better.

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, and 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice and COREQUISITES: 10514189 Phys Rehab Practice, 10514190 OT Pediatric Practice, and 10514184 OTA Fieldwork I.

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, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice and COREQUISITES: 10514179 Community Practice, 10514189 Phys Rehab Practice, and 10514190 OT 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.

10514189

OT Phys Rehab Practice - Credits: 4

Explores interventions relative to major physical disability diagnoses seen in OT practice. Evaluation, treatment interventions, assistive technology and documentation are emphasized relative to the biomechanical neuromuscular and rehabilitative approaches to practice. PREREQUISITES: 10514174 OT Performance Skills, 10514175 Psychosocial Practice, 10514176 OT Theory and Practice, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice and COREQUISITES: 10514179 Community Practice, 10514190 OT Pediatric Practice, and 10514184 OTA Fieldwork I.

10514190

OT Pediatric Practice - Credits: 4

Explores interventions relative to major pediatric diagnoses seen in OT practice. Evaluation, treatment interventions, assistive technology 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, and 10514178 Geriatric Practice and COREQUISITES: 10514179 Community Practice, 10514189 OT Phys Rehab Practice, 10514184 OTA Fieldwork I, and 10809188 Developmental Psychology.