

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

2009 – 2010

20 Months

Credits Required for Graduation: 80

Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degree

What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational Therapy (OT) involves the use of familiar and/or enjoyable activities to assist individuals in improving physical, cognitive, mental, or emotional limitations. Occupational therapy promotes well-being and satisfaction with life by helping clients with injury prevention and improving performance in living.

What does an Occupational Therapy Assistant do?

An Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) is a health care professional who, under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist, assists individuals of all ages in learning to manage physical, cognitive, mental, and emotional aspects of living. By implementing safe performance of daily activities (self-care, independent living skills, work, leisure, play and social participation), the OTA is able to use the interests of the individual in treatment to teach injury prevention, improve functional ability, and/or adapt equipment or environments to improve success.

This program prepares the student to work in a variety of community and health care settings where Occupational Therapy services are presently available and where the services will be available in the future.

About the Program

This program, twenty months in length, consists of lecture, laboratory experience, discussion, demonstration, and off-site fieldwork experiences. **Satisfactory completion of this program requires that the individual maintain a 2.0 GPA and complete all course work with a grade of C or higher with the exception that one grade of D will be allowed in a general or related course.** Upon completion of the curriculum, the graduate receives an Associate of Applied Science degree.

Graduates of this accredited program are eligible to take the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant administered by the National Board of Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) NBCOT's Web Site. After successful completion of the exam, the graduate will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). Most states also require licensure to practice which is typically based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Exam.

Accreditation

Lake Area Technical Institute is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The OTA program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association at 4720 Montgomery Lane, PO Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220, phone (301) 625-2682.

Be advised that students graduating from an unaccredited program are not eligible to take the NBCOT Certification Exam. In addition, a felony conviction may affect an individual's eligibility to sit for the national exam and/or obtain state licensure. LATI is an open admissions technical institute.

Job Opportunities

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projected that the demand for occupational therapy assistants will continue to grow over the next ten years due to various factors including the aging of our population and the advances made in the medical industry.

Application Process

Students interested in applying for admission in the fall of each year may begin building an application file at any time. Completed applications are processed as they are received. Contact the admissions assistant with questions regarding the status of your application file as applications are not processed until complete. Class size will be limited to 22 students per year. Applicants should be aware that this is an academically intense curriculum.

Recommend Background Courses

The following courses would be beneficial to this course of study prior to attending Lake Area Technical Institute: Psychology, Sociology, Communications, Biology, Health, English, Computer.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ANAT 142 – Anatomy (3 credits) A study of cells, tissues and organs making up the Integumentary, Muscular, Skeletal, Nervous, Endocrine, Digestive, Respiratory, Lymphatic, and Urinary systems of the body. Emphasis is on structure and function of the systems and the relationship of the body structures (anatomy) to their function (physiology.)

AED 100 – Automated External Defibrillator (.5 credit) To prepare individuals in the workplace to provide care for breathing emergencies, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and use an automated external defibrillator (AED) for victims of sudden cardiac arrest.

CSC 100 – Introduction to Computers (1 credit) Using a Windows-based microcomputer and related software, you will gain an understanding and basic operational knowledge about the Windows XP operating system, Microsoft Office word processing, and spreadsheets. You will demonstrate this knowledge by scoring at least 80% on assignments, related objective, and performance tests.

ENGL 101 – Composition (3 credits) This course concentrates on all phases of the writing/communication process. Prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing are used to help students develop clear, concise, and unified writing styles that will serve them well in their chosen career areas.

MA 115 – Medical Terminology (1.5 credits) Spelling, building words using prefixes, suffixes, roots and combining forms, defining and recognizing words used in the health field.

MATH 100 – Applied General Math (3 credits) Emphasis on the ability to understand and apply math skills to solve problems in the world of work.

OTA 100 – Introduction to Occupational Therapy (2 credits) This course will examine the profession of Occupational Therapy (OT). This includes exploring OT's history, philosophy, personnel, educational requirements, employment settings, and ethics. Additional OT issues addressed include standards and regulations, professional organizations, domains of concerns, the OT process, cultural and environmental diversity, related discipline roles, teaching and learning strategies and professional development.

OTA 105 – Activity Analysis (3 credits) Activities that are utilized as treatment techniques are analyzed using current activity analysis techniques. Introduction to adaptation and gradation for therapeutic use of activities is also addressed.

OTA 111 – Kinesiology/Neurology for Occupational Therapy Assistant (5 credits) This course addresses basic kinesiological and neurological principles involved in occupational performance related to “normal movement,” and the importance of using exercise as an adjunct to treatment.

OTA 120 – Human Development: Prenatal through Adolescent (2 credits) This course will emphasize basic developmental frames of reference and issues from birth through adolescence. Cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomical diversity will be introduced.

OTA 125 – Occupational Therapy Application I – Pediatric Practice (3 credits) This course will address issues related to occupational therapy with individuals, birth to young adult. Emphasis will be placed on the OT process, settings, and common client factor deficits encountered with this age group.

OTA 131 – Adaptations for Daily Tasks (4 credits) This course will teach students remediation of the areas of occupation (ADL, IADL, Education, Work, Play, Leisure and Social Participation) through the use of adaptation and gradation.

OTA 133 – Documentation for the Occupational Therapy Assistant (1 credit) This course is designed to address documentation skills expected from an Occupational Therapy Assistant. The course will address documentation skills including introducing the concept of observation versus assessment. SOAP Note documentation will be emphasized. Treatment planning will also be introduced.

OTA 135 – Dynamics of Interaction (2 credits) This course will address one-on-one interactions between individuals, as well as, the functional approach to working with groups in OT. Individual and group interaction techniques and observation skills will be emphasized.

OTA 140 – Ethics and Issues in Occupational Therapy (2 credits) This course combines the OTA and PTA programs and includes classroom instruction and discussion in ethics and important issues facing health care, as well as profession specific issues. Topics will include medical law and ethics, multi-disciplinary team approach, standards for practice and ethical conduct, professional liability, medical malpractice, confidentiality, quality assurance, employment issues, fiscal considerations, and third-party payers.

OTA 145 – Psychosocial Practice (3 credits) This course presents common theories of psychosocial practice as well as the use of many Occupational Therapy frames of reference in treatment occupational performance deficits. It will familiarize students with assessment and intervention techniques utilized in various settings.

OTA 150 – Fieldwork I-A (.5 credits) A one-week fieldwork placement will be completed to allow students to observe and apply critical thinking skills based on previous academic information obtained and to apply observations to future academic courses.

OTA 155 – Fieldwork I-B (.5 credits) A one-week fieldwork placement will be completed to allow students to observe and apply critical thinking skills based on previous academic information obtained and to apply observations to future academic courses.

OTA 200 – Human Development: Adult to Death (1 credit) This course will present theories of physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development for the young adult through death. Cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic, and sexual diversity will be discussed. Also, concepts and theories of death and dying will be presented.

OTA 205 – Occupational Therapy Application II – Adult Practice (3 credits) This course builds on previous documentation experience. Assessments used and settings in which adult populations may receive Occupational Therapy services will be presented. Remediation techniques for mental, sensory, neuromusculoskeletal deficits will be explored.

OTA 210 – Pathophysiology (2 credits) This course will present the basic concepts of many diseases commonly addressed in Occupational Therapy. Treatment implementation and management of the conditions will be emphasized.

OTA 220 – Physical Disabilities Lecture and Lab (5 credits) This course presents common theories as well as applications of physical disabilities practice. It will also familiarize students with intervention techniques utilized in various settings. Implementation techniques, equipment, and tools as they apply to occupation will be addressed. Individual treatment planning and implementation will also be a focus. Students will be expected to discuss the importance of continued competency and its relation to their future career.

OTA 231 – Special Topics in Occupational Therapy (1 credit) This course will address professional development skills such as resume writing and interviewing. Students will also practice professional presentation skills as advocates for the OT profession in medically underserved areas and with medically underserved population.

OTA 236 – Fieldwork II-A (5.5 credits) Following successful completion of all academic courses, the student will complete two eight-week fieldwork placements at different sites, which allows them to apply theory and skills acquired during their education.

OTA 241 – Fieldwork II-B (5.5 credits) Following successful completion of all academic courses, the student will complete two eight-week fieldwork placements at different sites, which allows them to apply theory and skills acquired during their education.

PHYS 210 – Human Physiology (4 credits) Lecture, lab work, and demonstrations of human physiological processes both normal and abnormal.

PSYC 101 – General Psychology (3 credits) This course is an introduction survey of the field of psychology with consideration of the biological bases of behavior, sensory and perceptual processes, learning and memory, human growth and development, social behavior, and normal and abnormal behavior.

PSYC 251 – Abnormal Psychology (3 credits) A comprehensive study of abnormal personality behavior. Detailed examination of the origin, symptoms and treatment of psychological disorders.

SOC 100 – Introduction to Sociology (3 credits) Comprehensive study of society, with analysis of group life, and other forces shaping human behavior.

SPCM 101 – Fundamentals of Speech (3 credits) Introduces the study of speech fundamentals and critical thinking through frequent public speaking practice, including setting, purpose, audience, and subject.