



# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

## Associate of Science

### THE PROFESSION

The Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) works under the direction of an Occupational Therapist to provide rehabilitative services to persons with physical, developmental, or mental disabilities. Their goal is to enable clients to function as independently as possible in the areas of self-care, work and leisure. They may help a disabled homemaker learn how to perform household tasks, teach a child how to manipulate a toy, or perhaps help an injured worker return to work by improving hand strength and coordination.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant helps clients with specific rehabilitative activities and exercises outlined in the treatment plan developed in collaboration with the Occupational Therapist. Activities range from teaching the correct technique for transferring from a wheelchair to a bed, to teaching handwriting skills to a child with a developmental disability. The assistant monitors the progression of the program, ensuring that activities are performed correctly and suggests changes to that program. They also record observations and document treatment for reimbursement.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant works with people of all ages in a variety of settings. These include rehabilitation centers, acute care hospitals, school systems, mental health facilities, nursing homes, pediatric clinics and in clients' homes.

The key to success of the occupational therapy process is the ability to establish rapport with the patient. Those best suited for this profession are those who genuinely like people and can relate to both individuals and small groups. Since this is a profession without a set of ready-made answers for every situation, the potential student must be flexible, creative and a good problem solver.

### THE PROGRAM

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Florida Hospital College provides the student with a complete and comprehensive learning experience that enables him or her to acquire the competencies required of an Occupational Therapy Assistant. The student is exposed to a variety of clinical experiences in occupational therapy practice at many local facilities. The program can be completed in two calendar years and leads to an Associate of Science degree.

### FACILITIES

The Occupational Therapy Lab has been designed to simulate typical occupational therapy clinics in a variety of settings. The Lab includes kitchen and bathroom areas, complete with adaptive equipment and devices commonly recommended for occupational therapy patients. In the Lab, the student gains experience and comfort in working in these environments with equipment and materials they will ultimately use in a clinic setting.

### ACCREDITATION

The 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, PO Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. AOTA's phone number is (301) 652-AOTA. Graduates of the OTA program will be able to apply for the national certification examination for the Occupational Therapy Assistant administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Felony convictions must be resolved by the NBCOT's Qualifications Review Committee. 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. The state of Florida requires licensure.

Florida Hospital College Health Sciences is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award Certificates, Associate, Baccalaureate, and Master's degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences. Note: The Commission is to be contacted only if there is evidence that appears to support an institution's non-compliance with a requirement or standard.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for admission to the OTA Program must meet general College requirements and:

- Achieve a minimum high school unweighted GPA of 2.50 (on a 4.00 scale) or a minimum GPA of 2.50 on at least 12 credits of a previous college-level work.
- Achieve a minimum ACT standard composite score of 19 or a minimum SAT score of 910. Applicants with 24 or more credits from a regionally-accredited college are exempt from the ACT or SAT requirement.
- A student may repeat only two cognate courses one time each to remain eligible to enroll in the OTA program. No cognate may be repeated more than once to be considered for admission.
- Complete a mandatory hand-written essay on the FHCHS campus. Criteria for this essay are outlined on the *Mandatory Writing Instructions for OTA Essay* page.
- Submit three recommendations on FHCHS recommendation forms. Recommendations submitted at the time of initial application to the College will meet this requirement for current FHCHS students. Those who have attended FHCHS for at least one trimester must submit one of the recommendations from a full-time Pre-Professional faculty member.
- Although volunteer or observation hours in an occupational therapy clinic are not mandatory prior to admission, prospective students are strongly encouraged to spend as much time as possible observing, volunteering or working in multiple occupational therapy settings in order to gain knowledge of the profession. Applicants with this experience have shown enhanced performance in writing their essay.

*FHCHS students with qualifications equal to non-FHCHS students will be given priority for admission into professional programs.*

## RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

A minimum of 50 credits must be earned at FHCHS.

## CURRICULUM SEQUENCE 2010-2012

Fall		Spring		Summer	
BIOL 101 A&P I / Lab	4	BIOL 102 A&P II / Lab	4	BIOL 125 Pathophysiology	3
ENGL 101 English Comp	3	ENGL 144 Medical Terminology	2	OCTH 121 Psychosoc. Issues in OT	4
OCTH 111 Intro to OT	3	ENGL 102 English Comp II	3	OCTH 122 Psychosoc. OT Pract.	1
RELP 102 Phil of Health	2	OCTH 112 Applied Anat. & Kinesiol.	3	OCTH 131 Therapeutic Media	2
CPTR 103 Intro to Microcomputers	<u>2*</u>	PSYC 124 Gen Psych	<u>3</u>	PSYC 128 Developmental Psych	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>
Fall		Spring		Summer	
RELB142 Issues in Grieving & Loss	2	RELE 205 Christian Ethics	2	OCTH 231 Superv. Clin. Practice I	4
OCTH 211 OT in Geriatrics	4	HPER _____	1	OCTH 232 Superv. Clin. Practice II	4
OCTH 212 Geriatric OT Practicum	1	MATH 103 Survey of Math	3	OCTH 233 Seminar for Clin. Pract.	<u>1</u>
OCTH 213 OT in Physical Dysf.	4	or MATH 120 College Algebra			
OCTH 214 Phys. Dys. OT Practicum	<u>1</u>	or MATH 101 Intermed. Algebra			
		OCTH 221 OT in Pediatrics	4		
		OCTH 222 Pediatric OT Practicum	1		
		OCTH 223 Prof. Issues in OT	<u>3</u>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>

\* Students who can validate competency with word processing and use of the Internet by achieving a passing score on a challenge exam may be exempt from this course.

**General Education Courses (37 credits)**

**OTA Courses (40 credits)**

**TOTAL CREDITS 77**

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