

Allied Health

Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology

A certified occupational therapy assistant (COTA), works with people of all ages with physical, developmental, social or emotional problems who need assistance to lead independent, productive and satisfying lives. The COTA, under the supervision of a registered occupational therapist, provides clients with specialized activities (occupations) which aid them in mastering the skills necessary to perform daily tasks at home, school and in the community. As an important member of the health care or educational team, the occupational therapy practitioner works closely with doctors, nurses, physical therapists, teachers, speech-language pathologists and other allied health or educational professionals. The COTA provides instructions to clients, family members and caregivers in safe and effective methods to regain function, compensate for deficits and achieve health.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA), 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, Maryland 20824-1220. The telephone number is (301) 652-AOTA (2682) or www.aota.org.

You'll Learn

- How to complete therapeutic, rehabilitative, health promotion and wellness activities
- Subject matter covered on certification examinations
- To utilize a variety of therapy techniques for patient and client care
- How to treat individuals with both mental health and physical disabilities
- Additional knowledge and skills essential to your success on the job

You'll Earn

- Starting salaries range from \$25,000 to \$30,000
- Strong status in the job market
- The option to advance your career through further education
- The opportunity for a flexible work schedule part- or full-time
- A choice of work environments including public schools, rehabilitation hospitals, mental health centers, nursing homes, and home health agencies

You'll Succeed

- More than half of all new jobs created require education beyond high school.
- Employees with degrees have better chances for promotion.
- Associate degree holders generally earn 30 percent more than high school graduates (according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau).
- College credit or advanced placement may be given for relevant work experience.
- Many credits from an associate degree can be applied toward a bachelor's degree.

Get in, Get smart, Get going. . .

Delaware Tech operates on a semester system with new sessions in late August and mid-January, plus summer sessions beginning at the end of May and in mid-June. Non-technology courses may be taken on a part-time or full-time basis during any semester or the summer session. Some students may need refresher courses at the basic or pre-tech level; others may receive transfer credit for prior educational experiences. Counselors and advisors are available to help you schedule your courses.

Allied Health technology programs have a selective admission process which includes academic criteria of an algebra, biology and chemistry course at 2.0 or greater (high school or college) within the past five years and a GPA of 2.0 or greater. The prerequisite course noted below is a requirement for this specific program. Technology courses are sequential, offered only one time per year and are only open to students who have been admitted into the technology program.

People interested in entering Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology must attend an Allied Health Information Session prior to initiating the process for admission into the technology. Information regarding these sessions may be obtained by calling (302) 888-5288. Visit the Allied Health Web site at www.dtcc.edu/wilmington/ah.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITE

Chemistry- high school level or above within last five years.

TECHNICAL COURSES

Introduction to Occupational Therapy introduces the history and philosophy of the occupational therapy profession, including the development of the health care delivery system.

Health Conditions I and II study medical conditions, diseases and dysfunction from development in early life through the geriatric population, including cerebral palsy, mental retardation, multiple sclerosis, and burns.

Evaluation & Treatment Principles I and II introduce and apply occupational therapy techniques in treating the pediatric, adult and geriatric population.

Psychosocial Dysfunction introduces the theory and application of occupational therapy techniques in treating individuals with psychological and neurological disorders and behavior deviation.

Clinical Fieldwork I-1 and I-2 provide exposure to clients served by occupational therapy. Students are to function as participant observers in the clinical setting.

Group Process focuses on occupational therapy assistant knowledge base and skills related to group referral. Group interaction and discussion skills are developed.

Therapeutic Media develops general competence in purposeful activities (occupation). Activity analysis, therapeutic application, and precaution are integrated into each activity.

Professional Seminar provides the students with professional, ethical, legal and multicultural aspects of occupational therapy.

Clinical Fieldwork II provides supervised practical experience for the student: observing, treating, reporting and recording the occupational therapy techniques for patients with various psychosocial and physical performance deficits. The treatment population and site will complement Clinical Fieldwork III.

Clinical Fieldwork III provides supervised practical experience for the student: observing, treating, reporting and recording the occupational therapy techniques for patients with various psychosocial and physical performance deficits. The treatment population and site will complement Clinical Fieldwork II.

Functional Human Anatomy is an in-depth study of the muscular, skeletal, nervous, cardiovascular and ligamentary system of man, focusing on the structure and function associated with various physical therapy and occupational therapy techniques.

NOTE: Clinical Fieldwork II and III must be completed within 18 months of the didactic coursework for the OTA program.

SUPPORT COURSES

Composition
Oral Communications
College Math & Statistics
General Psychology
Human Development
Medical Terminology
Anatomy & Physiology I, II
Abnormal Psychology

TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE

1. Obtain an admission application by calling (302) 888-5288. Admission applications are also available online at www.dtcc.edu/prospective. Complete and return the application to the Wilmington Campus with a \$10 fee.
2. Request that your high school and/or college transcripts be sent to the Admissions Office.
3. Arrange to take the Computerized Placement Test (CPT) *unless you have already completed college-level Math and English courses with a "C" grade or better*. The CPT is administered by the Admissions Office (302) 454-3954 and is used to determine appropriate course placement.
4. Meet with a Delaware Tech counselor to discuss your CPT results and select your course schedule.
5. Remember to apply and register early for the best selection of courses.