

Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program Most Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take to complete the program?

The OTA Program is two years in length after acceptance into the program [76 credits + RDG 120 (3 credits)].

Can the courses be taken in the evening?

Core and technical support courses are offered all yearlong, day and evening. Many are offered using a distance learning format (telecourse or on-line). These courses are bolded on the course sequence sheet.

Occupational Therapy Assistant courses (OTA & BIO 122) are offered **once a year** and generally during the day. However, several required courses in the curriculum are scheduled for the evening.

Do volunteer/observation hours need to be completed prior to acceptance into the program?

Twenty hours of volunteer service and/or observation in Occupational Therapy are required to be completed prior to the first OTA Technology course (OTA 110) which occurs in the fall (second) semester of the first year. Observation hours **must be completed** in an Occupational Therapy Department or Program.

What are the clinical experiences?

The Clinical Education component of the program is essential to the education of the occupational therapy assistant student. The student spends two semesters in part-time clinical practicums (OTA 225 and 226), one day a week in the spring semester of the first year and fall semester of the second year. In the last semester of the program (spring semester), in OTA 231 and 232, the student is assigned full-time (40 hours a week) for 16 weeks to clinical settings. A student pays for these courses, and does not get paid by the clinical facility for participating in this experience. The experience is evaluated by the clinical supervisor, in collaboration with a DTCC faculty member.

Can I transfer credits from a previous college experience?

Courses from other colleges can be considered for transfer if they are within the past ten years and have a “C” or better. Math and Science courses must be completed within the past five years with a “C” or better.

What other information do I need to consider prior to scheduling courses?

RDG 120- Critical Reading and Thinking is a required course for graduation, in addition to a pre-requisite for OTA 110 – Introduction to Occupational Therapy. There are several ways to become exempt. They include 1) becoming exempt by the score on the College Placement Test (CPT) or 2) having an associate degree or higher, which makes one exempt when the transcript of the degree granting institution is reviewed and approved.

A student in this program is required to comply with the Allied Health/Science Department Policy Manual and the policies and procedures that pertain to any technology program. For example: transportation to the clinical site, completing immunization and medical forms.

Revised: 6-18-09