

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Occupational therapy assistants help people of all ages develop, regain or master everyday skills in order to live life to its fullest. By focusing on the physical, psychological and social needs of its clients, occupational therapy helps people function at the highest possible level by concentrating on what is important to them to rebuild their health, independence and self-esteem.

An occupational therapy assistant is a skilled, certified healthcare worker who carries out treatment plans under the guidance and supervision of an occupational therapist.

These specially trained and credentialed professionals rely on evidence-based best practices and science-driven data to constantly improve patient outcomes.



Trusted. Respected. Preferred.

Occupational Therapy Assistant Course Outline

What You Will Learn

Through Pima Medical Institute's Occupational Therapy Assistant program, you'll acquire the necessary skills for a solid entry-level position as an occupational therapy assistant. Our coursework focuses on medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, growth and development, kinesiology and occupational therapy for mental and physical health.

Job Outlook

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment of occupational therapy assistants and aides is projected to grow 34 percent from 2020 to 2030, much faster than the average for all occupations. Occupational therapy will continue to be an important part of treatment for people with various illnesses and disabilities.*

Employment

Occupational therapy assistants provide treatment interventions to infants, children, adults and geriatric patients in settings such as public schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, mental health centers, nursing homes and other community settings.

Licensure and Certification

Graduates of an accredited Occupational Therapy Assistant program will be eligible to take the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant. This exam is administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of the exam, the individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA).

*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Occupational Therapy Assistants and Aides, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapy-assistants-and-aides.htm> (visited October 05, 2021).

Program is 80 weeks in length. The total number of program hours is 1,712. Graduates will receive an Associate of Occupational Science degree.

The occupational therapy assistant program at the San Marcos campus has applied for accreditation and has been granted Preaccreditation Status 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. The program must complete an on-site evaluation and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates 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.

Semester I (16 Weeks)

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
CMT 105	Medical Terminology	16			1.0
BIO 105	Anatomy & Physiology I	48	32		4.0
OTA 102	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	48			3.0
MTH 125	Math and Statistics	16			1.0
CCM 150	Communications for the Health Professions	48			3.0
PSY 130	Psychology	48			3.0
Semester I Total		224	32		15.0

Semester II (16 Weeks)

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
HST 205	Nevada History and US Constitution*	45			3.0
BIO 106	Anatomy & Physiology II	48	32		4.0
OTA 130	Occupational Analysis	32			2.0
OTA 201	Documentation for the OTA	32			2.0
OTA 108	Growth & Development	48			3.0
OTA 115	Principles of OT in Mental Health	48	16		3.5
Semester II Total		253	48		17.5

*Represents the Las Vegas Campus

Semester III (16 Weeks)

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
OTA 125	Kinesiology	32	16		2.5
OTA 110	Fundamentals of Occupational Therapy	32			2.0
OTA 206	Human Occupations I	48	32		4.0
OTA 215	Principles of OT in Physical Health	48	16		3.5
OTA 220	Fieldwork I			80	1.5
Semester III Total		160	64	80	13.5

Semester IV (16 Weeks)

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
OTA 209	Human Occupations II	40	32		3.5
OTA 230	Administrative Procedures	32			2.0
OTA 245	Pediatric Practice for the OTA	40	32		3.5
OTA 250	Specific Populations for the OTA	32	16		2.5
OTA 226	Professional Development Strategies	32			2.0
Semester IV Total		176	80		13.5

Semester V (16 Weeks)

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
OTA 221	Fieldwork II A			320	7.0
OTA 222	Fieldwork II B			320	7.0
Semester V Total				640	14.0
PROGRAM TOTALS		768	224	720	70.5
LAS VEGAS PROGRAM TOTALS		813	224	720	73.5



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- Hands-on training
- Financial aid if qualified
- Career planning services