

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 21 percent from 2023 to 2033, 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 January 11, 2025).

Program is 80 weeks in length. The total number of program hours is 1,712 at all campuses except Las Vegas. The Las Vegas campus program hours total 1,757. The Las Vegas program includes one additional 3 credit class (HST 205 Nevada History and US Constitution). Graduates of the Houston and El Paso programs will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree, while all other graduates will receive an Associate of Occupational Science degree.

THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAMS AT THE DENVER, EL PASO, HOUSTON, LAS VEGAS, MESA, RENTON, SAN MARCOS AND TUCSON CAMPUSES ARE ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EDUCATION (ACOTE) OF THE AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION (AOTA), LOCATED AT 7501 WISCONSIN AVENUE, SUITE 510E BETHESDA, MD 20814. ACOTE'S TELEPHONE NUMBER, C/O AOTA, IS (301) 652-AOTA AND ITS WEB ADDRESS IS WWW.ACOTEONLINE.ORG.

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



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

PMI offers FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE to those who qualify. CAREER PLANNING SERVICES and INTERNSHIPS are also provided for eligible students. Check availability on DAY and EVENING classes. Not all programs are offered at all campuses. For consumer info visit pmi.edu/consumerinfo.