

3rd Semester

Humanities Elective (Code A recommended) (Art, Music, Theatre, Literature, Religion, or Philosophy)		3
NUR 203	Nursing Through the Lifespan III	6
NUR 204	Role Transition for the Registered Nursing	4
Total Semester Credit Hours		13

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS **51**

Program requirements may change without notice. For more information go to www.wallacestate.edu/nursing. For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at <http://www.wallacestate.edu/nursing>.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT



Mr. Allen Keener, Program Director
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**Associate in Applied Science Degree
(5 semesters): 2 prerequisite semester + 3 program semesters**

At a Glance

Employment of occupational therapy assistants is expected to grow by 43 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than average for all occupations. Occupational Therapy is best described by The American Occupational Therapy Association as follows: Occupational therapy focuses on enabling people to do the activities of daily life. The very word “occupation” means an activity which “occupies” our time. Young or old, we all have a job to do - the job of living. Learning, growing, playing, working, managing our homes, and caring for our families are among the “occupations” of life. Unfortunately, physical, emotional, or other challenges often prevent people from fully participating in the job of living. Disease, injury, depression, or developmental problems can make it difficult for people to do everyday tasks and be active and independent.

Occupational therapy-a vibrant, growing profession makes it possible for people to achieve independence and to enjoy life to its fullest. By choosing a career as an occupational therapy assistant, you will make a difference! You will be able to improve the lives of people, from newborns to the very old. Students today can look forward to dynamic careers working in multiple settings with people of all ages. The employment outlook for occupational therapy assistants is bright. Recent information published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected that the job outlook for occupational therapy assistants will continue to improve steadily for the foreseeable future.

Program Description

Under the direction of an Occupational Therapist, the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) assists in evaluating patients and in developing a plan of selected tasks to restore, influence, or enhance performance of individuals whose abilities to cope with daily-living tasks are impaired or threatened by developmental deficits, the aging process, physical injury or illness, learning disabilities, or psychological and social disabilities. Occupational Therapy Assistants are employed in general hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, schools, home health-care agencies, private practices, and other specialized health-care settings. A student who has completed all OTA required general education courses may complete the OTA program courses in three semesters.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Wallace State Community College is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE’s telephone number, c/o AOTA, is 301-652-AOTA. ACOTE’s web address is www.acoteonline.org.

Graduate of the Wallace State Community College OTA program are 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 graduate will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). In addition, most states require licensure to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Exam. A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT examination or attain state licensure.

To view the official NBCOT exam score results for the WSCC OTA program, visit the NBCOT program data results homepage at <https://secure.nbcot.org/data/schoolstats.aspx>.

Admission Requirements

Applicants Must:

1. Meet all the general requirements of WSCC.
2. Complete general required courses for OTA (prerequisite 1st and 2nd semester courses) by program application deadline of June 1st.
3. Submit to WSCC Admission Office, by June 1 deadline, an official WSCC application for admission, current official college transcripts demonstrating completion of OTA general required courses, and a copy of official ACT scores (a minimum ACT score of 18 is required to qualify for program entry).
4. Submit to OTA Program Director, by June 1 deadline, a complete OTA program application, copy of unofficial college transcripts, and documented evidence of 24 hours of observation and/or participation in not less than two approved occupational therapy departments. (Hours will

be verified through telephone conversation or correspondence with supervisors listed on application). Proof of active/current AHA Approved CPR Certification BLS Providers/Healthcare Providers. CPR courses must contain cognitive + hands-on skills demonstration components. Online CPR courses will not be accepted.

5. Attain a minimum GPA of 2.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale with a grade of "C" or better on all general required pre-OTA courses. GPA calculated for program selection will be on the general required pre-OTA courses only.
6. The program application can be found online at <http://www.wallacestate.edu/Programs/Health-Division/Occupational-Therapy-Assistant>

Students are encouraged to meet with the OTA Program Advisor prior to spring semester (before application) to verify completed and needed course work, for successful application to the program.

Program application packets, which include the OTA Program application, documentation of observation hours, copy of unofficial transcripts and copy of healthcare provider CPR card, must be submitted to the OTA Program as a complete packet. Incomplete packets will not be accepted for consideration. Applications may be downloaded from the OTA section of the WSCC Web Page at www.wallacestate.edu.

Selection and Notification

1. The OTA program admits annually in the fall semester.
2. Candidates are ranked for admission on the basis of ACT scores, weighted GPA (GPA x 9) and completion of admission requirements.
3. Program applications will be reviewed for completion of program admission requirements. Written notification of the program admission status for each applicant will be mailed to the student at the address provided on the application.
4. Students must return written confirmation of their acceptance within 7 days of the postmarked date of the acceptance letter. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of place in the class. A signed consent to drug testing and background screening must accompany the acceptance confirmation.
5. In the event of a tie, the following procedure will be followed in the order listed below to determine student acceptance into the program: 1) highest prerequisite GPA, 2) ACT Reading subtest score, 3) date of application submission

Program Expectations

Students admitted into the Occupational Therapy Assistant program are expected to comply with the Health Science Program Regulations and Expectations as published in the Programs of Study section of the Wallace State College Catalog. Upon Acceptance:

OTA students are required to submit an annual physical examination form, including proof of Hepatitis B and other

lab results as indicated on the form.

Students are required to submit proof of current CPR certification. Only CPR courses that provide certification for health care providers will be accepted (see #4 under Admission requirements).

Malpractice and liability insurance, available through the College, is required of all OTA students. Health insurance is also required but is not available through the college.

OTA students are required to undergo Background Screening and Drug Testing according to Health Science Division policy.

Progression:

OTA students must attain a minimum grade of "C" in all general education and major required courses. Failure to do so in major required courses will result in dismissal from the program. A student in good academic standing will be allowed to apply for readmission only once to the program.

OTA students are required to exhibit professional behavior at all times. A professional behavior assessment is completed on each OTA student. A minimal acceptable score of 81 is required each semester by OTA students. Failure to obtain the minimal acceptable score will result in probation of the OTA student with supplemental counseling by an OTA advisor. If the OTA student is unable to obtain the minimal required score after counseling, they will be dismissed from the OTA program.

Level II Fieldwork must be completed within 20 months of completion of academic requirements.

Readmission to Program

Students whose progression through the OTA program is interrupted and who desire to re-enter the program must schedule an appointment with a OTA faculty advisor to discuss re-entry. The student must apply for readmission to the OTA program within one year from the term of withdrawal of failure. Students who are accepted for readmission are required to repeat certain classes previously completed.

Readmission may be denied due to, but not limited to, any of the following circumstances:

1. Failure to possess a GPA of at least 2.0 for all OTA major and OTA general education courses.
2. Refusal by fieldwork sites to accept the student for fieldwork experiences.
3. Over 12 months have elapsed since the student was enrolled in an OTA course.
4. Student has been dismissed from the program.

Career Path

Occupational Therapy Assistants are employed in general hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health-care agencies, private practices, schools and other specialized health-care settings. Depending on your employer or the setting in which you work, your tasks may include:

- Aiding the growth and development of premature

babies

- Improving learning environments for physically or mentally challenged school children
- Adapting home environments for people dealing with the effects of stroke, reduced vision, or other conditions
- Analyzing job tasks and equipment to prevent future injuries for an injured worker

Measuring the effectiveness of treatment activities
Median annual earnings of occupational therapy assistants were \$53,240 in May 2012, with the highest 10 percent earning more than \$73,120. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics)

The WSCC Occupational Therapy Assistant Program courses will be accepted for transfer to Athens State, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and University of South Alabama in the Bachelor Degree in Health Science. As of January 1, 2007 all students interested in furthering their career and becoming an occupational therapist are required to obtain a post baccalaureate degree (i.e. professional master's degree or entry level doctoral degree). Please consult STARS transfer guide for the latest information.

Students seeking to apply to the OTA program must complete the prerequisite courses listed under the 1st and 2nd semester headings, then submit an application to the program by the June 1st deadline of the year in which they wish to apply to the program. Upon acceptance into the program, students will complete the 3rd, 4th, and 5th semester courses.

Occupational Therapy Assistant - Example Curriculum Map

1st Semester

ORI 110	Freshman Seminar	1
ENG 101	English Composition	3
PSY 200	General Psychology	3
MTH 116	Mathematical Applications	<u>3</u>
Total Semester Credit Hours		10

2nd Semester

SPH 106	Fundamentals of Oral Communication	3
BIO 201	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
HIT 110	Medical Terminology	3
CIS 146	Microcomputer Applications	3
HUM/FA	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	<u>3</u>
Total Semester Credit Hours		16

3rd Semester

OTA 210	Occupational Therapy Fundamentals	3
OTA 211	Practical Anatomy and Kinesiology-Theory	2
OTA 212	Practical Anatomy and Kinesiology-Lab	2
OTA 213	Treatment Planning and Implementation: Part I Theory-Pediatrics	3
OTA 214	Treatment Planning and Implementation:	

OTA 217	Part I Lab-Pediatrics	2
OTA 218	Orientation to Fieldwork	1
OTA 219	Level I Fieldwork-A	1
OTA 221	Level I Fieldwork-B	1
	Medical Conditions in OT	<u>3</u>
Total Semester Credit Hours		18

4th Semester

OTA 215	Psychiatric Environment and Group Process in OT	2
OTA 216	Psychiatric Environment and Group Process in OT-Lab	1
OTA 220	Documentation for the OTA	2
OTA 222	Treatment Planning and Implementation: Part II Theory-Adult	3
OTA 223	Treatment Planning and Implementation: Part II Lab-Adult	2
OTA 224	Occupational Activity Analysis	2
OTA 225	Occupational Activity Analysis-Lab	2
OTA 226	Level II Fieldwork-A	4
OTA 227	Evidence Based Practice	<u>1</u>
Total Semester Credit Hours		19

5th Semester

OTA 230	Professional Skills Development	3
OTA 231	Rehabilitation Management	3
OTA 232	Splinting	2
OTA 233	Level II Fieldwork-B	4
OTA 234	OTA Review Seminar	<u>1</u>
Total Semester Credit Hours		13

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS **76**

PARALEGAL



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Associate in Applied Science Degree (4 semesters)

At a Glance

The American Bar Association defines a paralegal or legal assistant as a person, qualified by education, training, or work experience who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office, corporation, governmental agency or other entity. A paralegal performs specifically delegated substantive legal work for which a lawyer is responsible. Paralegals may not provide legal services directly to the public except as permitted by law.

A paralegal's primary role is to help a lawyer in his or her preparations for trials, business meetings, and hearings. Paralegals help make certain that all aspects of the case have been considered, and gather information and investigate facts. By performing research, paralegals find relevant laws, statutes,