



Occupational Therapy Assistant

Mr. Allen Keener, Program Director
256.352.8333
Allen.Keener@wallacestate.edu

Associate in Applied Science Degree (5 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. As students typically sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy Exam for the OTA after graduation and completion of all program requirements, the WSCC OTA program makes no guarantee that students will successfully complete the exam.

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

1. Unconditional admission to the college - College application must be submitted by the program application deadline.
2. Student must be in good standing with the college.
3. Receipt of complete program applications accepted between March 1 and June 1 for Fall entry. Applications received after the deadline will be considered on a space available basis.
4. The online application is located at www.wallacestate.edu Online application instructions are under the Application to Program tab. Upon completion of the online application, all applicants are

required to submit a Verification Sheet with all necessary documentation attached. The Verification Sheet, along with full instructions, can be found on Page 3 of the Online Application Instructions.

5. Official transcripts from each college attended must be provided to the Admissions Office and all unofficial transcripts must be attached to the program application Verification Sheet.
6. Student must meet the essential functions and technical standards required for the program as documented on the required WSCC physical form at www.wallacestate.edu-see Physical Form Essential Functions.
7. A minimum of 18 ACT composite score (National or Residual) is required for admission consideration. Proof of score must be submitted with the application Verification Sheet.
8. Meet all the general admission requirements of WSCC.
9. Complete general required courses for OTA (prerequisite 1st and 2nd semester courses) by program application deadline of June 1st.
10. 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.

Students are encouraged to meet with OTA Program Advisor prior to spring semester (before application) to verify completed and needed coursework, 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:

1. 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.
2. Students are required to submit proof of current CPR certification. Only CPR courses that provide certification for BLS/ health care providers will be accepted. Online CPR courses WILL NOT be accepted.
3. 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.
4. OTA students are required to undergo Background Screening and Drug Testing according to Health Science Division policy.
5. Students must be able to demonstrate ability to perform WSCC Health Division and OTA Program Essential Functions (see Health Science Programs of Study in WSCC catalog).

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 87 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. Students are required to complete two full-time eight week clinical fieldwork rotations. These are scheduled by the program during the spring and summer semesters. Students are responsible for costs associated with these placements, including travel and meals. Students should expect up to a two hour drive time to and from these sites.

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 an 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 or 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.
5. Documented ethical, safety, and professionalism concerns on campus and/or clinical fieldwork.
6. Student has been dismissed from a clinical fieldwork site.

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 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 physical, mental, and cognitive conditions
- Assisting an individual or group in regaining the most independence possible in performance of desired activities or occupations
- Working in collaboration with the registered occupational therapist to deliver quality intervention to improve a client's ability to engage in occupations of value
- 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 \$59,010 in May 2016, with the highest 10 percent earning more than \$80,090, and the lowest 10 percent earning \$39,160. (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.

NOTE: The Guided Pathways Curricular Maps below contain all the elements required for degree/certificate completion. However, courses may be offered or taken in other semesters so long as prerequisites are met. Additional options for elective courses are available. Please see Degreeworks for allowable substitutions. Courses may be available days, nights, hybrid, and online. Sample maps for part-time attendance may also be available. Please see an advisor.

AAS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT – Guided Pathway/Map

1st Semester

ORI 110* Freshman Seminar	1
ENG 101 English Composition I	3
PSY 200 General Psychology	3
MTH 100 Intermediate College Algebra	3
BIO 201** Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
Total Semester Credit Hours	14

2nd Semester

BIO 202 Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
PSY 210 Human Growth and Development	3
HUM 101 Intro to Humanities	3
Total Semester Credit Hours	10

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:	
Part I Lab-Pediatrics	2
OTA 217 Orientation to Fieldwork	1
OTA 218 Level I Fieldwork-A	1
OTA 219 Level I Fieldwork-B	1
OTA 221 Medical Conditions in OT	3
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	1
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	1
Total Semester Credit Hours	13
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	74

**ORI 110 (Freshman Seminar) is a college requirement not a requirement of a specific program. You are exempt from Freshman Seminar if you are a transfer student with a minimum of 12 semester hours of college work or if you were enrolled at WSCC before Fall 2004. ORI 110 is required for incoming freshmen in all divisions.*

***BIO 103 prerequisite is not required for OTA students.*