FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

1. **What are the pre-requisites?**
   There are five course pre-requisites and they are BSC 1085C (Anatomy & Physiology I), ENC 1101 (College Composition I), PSY 1012 (General Psychology), HSC 1000 (Introduction to Health Care), and, effective Fall 2012, OTH1001 (Introduction to OT). In addition, all math courses through the intermediate algebra level should be completed. There are three other open general education courses that you may go ahead and take while awaiting program admission (See curriculum).

   *Note:* Students applying after Fall 2012 will meet the **volunteer service hour** requirement in the **Introduction to OT** class.

   Because the program is an AS Degree, students will be required to complete one of the following math courses to satisfy program requirements: College Algebra (MAC1105), Survey of Mathematics (MGF2106), Liberal Arts Math (MGF 2107), or Statistics (STA2023). Survey of Mathematics is recommended.

2. **What are the program hours?**
   The first semester in the program (Fall) has three required OTA classes. The **tentative** schedule for these classes:
   - Monday: 9:00 – 4:00; Wednesday: 9:00-3:30*; Friday: 9:00-3:30*
   *Ending time will depend on lab sections.
   **If a student is still taking general education requirements, their schedule will vary accordingly.

   The second semester (Spring) has four required OTA classes which are spaced over three days (M/W/F), with a fifth fieldwork course (OTH 1800) done in an additional half-day. The OTA program does not run over the summer semester so this is a good time to catch up on any required general education or work and save money for school.

   The second year’s Fall Semester has four required OTA classes. Three of these classes are spaced over four class days, with approximate times from 9:00-3:30, with some variation for lab schedules. The fourth class (OTH 1802) has a once-a-week fieldwork placement throughout the first two-thirds of the semester, with a two-week full-time fieldwork experience at the end of the semester.

   The second year Spring Semester is the supervised clinical practice (internship), which involves M-F, 8-5 for the full sixteen-week semester. There is also an online course during this semester.

3. **How much does the program cost?**
   At $104.48 per credit hour ($406.80 for non-residents) this 70 hour program will cost $7,313.00 for tuition over a two-year period ($29,696.00 for non-residents). Additional approximate costs include: FDLE Level II Background Check to include Drug Testing
and Fingerprinting $180.00, **OTA Books** $900-$1,000, **Name Tag** $10.00, Physical $50.00, TB Test $20.00, Hep B Boosters $42.00 (optional) **CPR** certification $45.00, 2 Program logo shirts $35.00, and student membership (this is recommended, not mandatory) to the American Occupational Therapy Association $80.00. Post-graduation, the certification examination is $565.00 and State licensing fees are approximately $200.00.

4. **Will my previous college courses count in this program?**
   Official Transcripts must be submitted to the Admissions Department, where the Transcript Evaluator will determine which credits are transferable into the A.S. Degree program. Unofficial transcripts must be attached to the School of Health Careers and Human Services application. Students transferring from other OTA programs will need to speak with the Program Manager about the process; however, courses are not automatically accepted.

5. **Do I need to use a computer in this program?**
   Yes, you will need access to a computer with current software. Each of our courses has a web-based component through Florida Online, where we communicate with you for class information, post course resources, and have some assignments done online. In addition, OTH 2933 is offered primarily online. We update OTA course material online each year as well. There is a computer lab available to students in our program, as well as resources at the Computer Commons in the Library.

6. **Must I take a certification exam upon completion of this program? What is the NBCOT pass rate for graduates who take the test for the first time?**
   Yes, you must take and pass a national certification exam through NBCOT to be able to practice.
   In the years 2012-2014, the number of graduates who passed the certification exam as first-time new graduate test-takers was **62 out of 70**, which is a pass rate of **88%**. **5** graduate test-takers during this time passed the exam on a repeat attempt, for a total pass rate of **95%**. The total number of graduates from the program during this time was **72**.
   For the graduates of 2014, **19** took the exam, with **18** passing, regardless of attempts, for an overall pass rate of **95%**. There were **20** graduates in 2014.
   You must also apply for state licensure for Florida, and that is based upon successful completion of the exam.

7. **What is the employment outlook?**
   Employment opportunities in the Volusia County area are fair to good. For those who are willing to relocate, there are very good employment opportunities in other areas in and out of Florida and throughout the U.S.

8. **What salary can I expect to earn?**
   The entry range is currently $23.00 - $28.00/per hour based on facility and location. PRN (as-needed) positions generally pay a higher hourly wage but offer no guarantees of employment and no benefits.

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9. **What are typical work settings in this profession?**
Nursing homes, school systems, outpatient rehabilitation centers, pediatric agencies, hospitals, home health, and some private offices (physicians, contract agencies, etc.)

10. **What are the typical working hours in this profession?**
Those employed in some hospital and nursing home settings may have some weekend coverage expected; however, most settings require regular M-F day hours. Flexibility is an option, with many companies offering part-time contract positions.

11. **When does the program start?**
A new program cycle begins each Fall semester in August. Applications are accepted January 1 through April 30 of each year. Applicants are usually notified of their status via postal mail by the end of May. The program can accommodate up to twenty-eight students each year.