



DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE

1200 International Speedway Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL. 32114

Dear Applicant:

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is an Associate of Science (A.S.) Degree Program. We are excited to be able to offer this very vital health care program. Individuals who work in occupational therapy use their personal and professional skills to help people deal with health problems that interfere with their ability to function in daily life. Besides the obvious academic skills, interested applicants should possess an ability to work with all types of people, good communication skills (written, verbal and nonverbal), flexibility and creativity.

In this packet, you should have the following document:

- **Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Guide**

This document reviews the OTA curriculum, the prerequisites and the sequential course of study. Important to note are the special requirements for admission. Please note the prerequisite requirements (**BSC 1085, ENC 1101, PSY 1012 and OTH 1001** (Introduction to OT). These must be completed, documented on paper (copies of transcripts) and stapled to the School of Health Careers application.

- **OTA Program Frequently Asked Questions Sheet**

- **Application to the School of Health Careers Department**

This application is different from the application to DSC which you also need to complete. The School of Health Careers application can be obtained at the Advising Center at any DSC campus or Bldg 320, Room 549 (DB campus). **Applications are accepted January 1- April 30.** Once the application is reviewed for completeness, it is stamped with a date. Selection is made during the month of May and throughout the summer until the class has been filled. Make sure that you keep the School of Health Careers up to date on any name, address or phone number changes that may occur during the wait period.

I am available for phone calls, e-mails or individual meetings to answer any questions you may have. It is my hope that you will be successful in your endeavors for admission to the Program. Please contact the OTA Department at (386)506-3823 or Melissa Brown-Mack, Academic Advisor (386) 506-3052 or melissa.brown-mack@daytonastate.edu

Sincerely,

Geraldine Rimstidt, Department Chair
School of Health Careers
E-mail: geraldine.rimstidt@DaytonaState.edu

Note: Be advised that the degree obtained with this program is an AS degree. Students applying at this time will be required to take and pass a Civic Literacy course: POS2041 – American Federal Government or AMH2020 – US History 1865 to Present; college level math in order to satisfy the degree requirements with the college. College level math classes include one of the following: College Algebra (MAC1105), College Math (MGF2106), Liberal Arts Math (MGF2107), or Statistics (STA2023).

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), and OTH1001 (Introduction to OT). In addition, all math courses through the intermediate algebra level (MAT 1033) 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 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: a Civic Literacy course: either American Federal Government (POS2041) or US History 1865 to Present (AMH2020); also math courses to satisfy program requirements: College Algebra (MAC1105), Survey of Math (MGF2106), Liberal Arts Math (MGF 2107), or Statistics (STA2023). College Math 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 summer semester has one course (OTH2420), which requires campus attendance 2 days each week. This is a good time to catch up on any required general education courses, or work and save money for the following year.

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 \$102.38 per credit hour (\$398.65 for non-residents) this 74 hour program will cost \$7,576.00 for tuition over a two-year period (\$29,500.00 for non-residents). Additional approximate costs include: Annual FDLE Level II Background Check to include Drug Testing and Fingerprinting \$184.00, **OTA Books** \$900-\$1,000, **Name Tag** \$10.00, annual Physical \$100.00, 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, access to wifi, audio and video, and use of Microsoft Office 365, which is available to you as an enrolled student. Each of our courses has a web-based component through Florida Online D2L, where we communicate with you for class information, post course resources, and submit assignments online. 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. *Eff. Fall 2020, due to restrictions from the COVID virus, most lectures are online, with labs meeting in person on campus.*

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 **2017-2019**, the number of graduates who passed the certification exam as new graduate test-takers was **51 out of 53**, which is a pass rate of **96%**. The total number of graduates from the program during this time was **59**.

For the graduates of 2019, **17** took the exam, with **17** passing, regardless of attempts, for an overall pass rate of **100%**. There were **19 graduates**.

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 for full-time positions and fair-good for PRN (as needed) or part-time. 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.

9. **What are typical work settings in this profession?**

Nursing homes, school systems, pediatric agencies, outpatient rehabilitation centers, 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-four students each year.