

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Occupational therapy is the study of human occupation – the activities humans engage in every day – across the lifespan and within diverse cultures. St. Catherine University's occupational therapy programs prepare students to help people engage in productive occupations that contribute to their physical, psychological, and spiritual well-being, ultimately enhancing their overall quality of life.

Graduates of St. Catherine University's occupational therapy programs will develop the skills to work with people of all ages and abilities in various settings. These include hospitals, mental health programs, rehabilitation centers, long-term care facilities, community-based settings, and public school systems.

The Occupational Therapy Department at St. Catherine University offers programs at the associate, master's, and doctoral levels. In addition, the University offers four pre-professional pre-occupational therapy degree programs.

Associate

- Occupational Therapy Assistant - AAS (<https://catalog.stkate.edu/undergraduate/health/occupational-science-therapy/occupational-therapy-assistant-aas/>)

For descriptions of graduate level occupational therapy courses, see the **Master of Arts in Occupational Therapy (graduate catalog)**. (<https://catalog.stkate.edu/graduate/health/occupational-science-therapy/maot/>)

OTA 1100 Foundations of Human Occupation with Lab – 2 credits

This course introduces the foundational theories, practice framework, and values of occupational therapy practice. Occupational participation is examined across the life span and from wellness to disability. Students learn activity analysis, use of adapted technologies, and safe positioning and transfer techniques. Critical thinking is emphasized. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisite: Admission to OTA.

Corequisite: OTA 1120.

OTA 1120 Role of the OTA with Lab – 2 credits

This course introduces the history and philosophy of occupational therapy practice. It examines the theory of occupational performance and its relationship to basic need satisfaction, the elements of the OT process, service delivery, documentation, professional development and the ethics and core values of occupational therapy. Occupational therapy assistant roles and responsibilities are emphasized including supervisory relationships with the occupational therapist. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisite: Admission to OTA.

Corequisite: OTA 1100.

OTA 1140 Psychosocial Approaches I with Lab – 2 credits

This course examines concepts, theories, and models influencing occupational therapy practice for individuals with mental health problems. Mental health conditions are discussed including signs, symptoms, risk factors, and medical management. Emphasis is on the social and environmental determinants of mental health across the lifespan. Approaches to maintaining good mental health are introduced. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisites: OTA 1100, OTA 1120.

Corequisite: OTA 1150.

OTA 1150 Professional Growth and Engagement with Lab – 2 credits

This course addresses professionalism, self-awareness, professional behaviors, interprofessional practice, team skills, communication, and leadership. Service learning is integrated into the course where experiences are linked to information learned in course content. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisites: OTA 1100, OTA 1120.

Corequisite: OTA 1140.

OTA 1280 Level I Fieldwork – 1 credit

This course provides students with initial exposure to clinical settings in the community. An emphasis is placed on professional behaviors, teamwork, group facilitation, therapeutic use of self, and application of content learned in previous and current courses. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisites: OTA 1100, OTA 1120, OTA 1140, OTA 1150.

OTA 1290 Level I Fieldwork – 1 credit

This course provides students with initial exposure to clinical settings in the community. An emphasis is placed on professional behaviors, teamwork, group facilitation, therapeutic use of self, and application of content learned in previous and current courses. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisite: OTA 1280.

OTA 2240 Psychosocial Approaches II with Lab – 2 credits

Students will know and demonstrate the basic skills needed for entry level OTA practice in multiple psychosocial settings, across the age span, and mental health continuum, using assessment tools and intervention strategies. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisites: OTA 1140, OTA 1150.

Corequisites: OTA 1280, OTA 2250.

OTA 2250 Rehabilitation Practice I with Lab – 2 credits

This course focuses on treatment planning and intervention for performance skill issues due to client factors associated with physical disabilities such as orthopedic injuries, amputations, and other musculoskeletal deficits. Major topic areas include: current intervention theories and the role of the OTA in areas of planning, documentation, reimbursement, and implementation of intervention, and program discontinuation. Emphasis is on the selection, application and interpretation of assessments, use of meaningful occupation and the collaboration between the OT and OTA in the rehabilitative setting. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisites: OTA 1140, OTA 1150.

Corequisites: OTA 1280, OTA 2240.

OTA 2265 Rehabilitation Practice II – 2 credits

This course focuses on intervention for performance skill issues due to client factors associated with impaired motor and process skills issues such as mental functioning, sensory processing, and musculoskeletal functions. Major topic areas include: current treatment theories and the role of the OTA in the areas of planning, implementation of treatment programs, and program discontinuation for neurological disorders. Emphasis is on use of meaningful occupation and understanding of individual performance contexts and patterns. Lessons are highly integrated with lab sessions. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisites: OTA 1280, OTA 2240, OTA 2250.

Corequisite: OTA 2275.

OTA 2275 Pediatric Practice I – 2 credits

This course introduces the occupational therapy assistant student to developmental theories and principles. Students will learn how to assess child and adolescent development to describe pediatric interventions for identified areas of occupation as well as motor and/or process challenges. This foundation of pediatric practice will prepare the student for identifying areas in which occupational therapy influences children's access to daily activities. At the completion of this course students will be able to advocate for occupational therapy services within pediatric and adolescent populations. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisites: OTA 1280, OTA 2240, OTA 2250.

Corequisite: OTA 2265.

OTA 2355 Level II Fieldwork – 6 credits

This course is designed to give students the opportunity for practical application of content in a variety of practice areas. Students are assigned to appropriate settings in the community under the supervision of an approved occupational therapy fieldwork educator for eight weeks per Accreditation Counsel for Occupational Education (ACOTE). Level II Fieldwork provides students the opportunity to transmit the values and beliefs of occupational therapy into ethical practice and to develop professionalism and competence as ongoing career responsibilities. Students will apply the elements of the occupational therapy process including assessment, treatment intervention, discharge planning, and documentation with clients. Students will demonstrate knowledge and integration of psychosocial factors that influence engagement in occupation in all settings. In addition, students will continue to develop and apply skills in group dynamics, leadership, inter- and intra-professional interactions and activity analysis. Students will be evaluated using the American Occupational Therapy Association Performance Evaluation per ACOTE guidelines. Offered in the College for Adults.

OTA 2365 Level II Fieldwork – 6 credits

This course is designed to give students the opportunity for practical application of content in a variety of practice areas. Students are assigned to appropriate settings in the community under the supervision of an approved occupational therapy fieldwork educator for eight weeks per Accreditation Counsel for Occupational Education (ACOTE). Level II Fieldwork provides students the opportunity to transmit the values and beliefs of occupational therapy into ethical practice and to develop professionalism and competence as ongoing career responsibilities. Students will apply the elements of the occupational therapy process including assessment, treatment intervention, discharge planning, and documentation with clients. Students will demonstrate knowledge and integration of psychosocial factors that influence engagement in occupation in all settings. In addition, students will continue to develop and apply skills in group dynamics, leadership, inter- and intra-professional interactions and activity analysis. Students will be evaluated using the American Occupational Therapy Association Performance Evaluation per ACOTE guidelines. Offered in the College for Adults.

OTA 2370 Pediatric Practice II with Lab – 2 credits

In this course students will learn to apply the OT process with special consideration for the pediatric and adolescent population. Students will appraise pediatric conditions and development (applying knowledge from the Pediatric Practice I course) in order to design interventions unique and specific to children and adolescents. Intervention techniques and strategies addressing physical and psychosocial pediatric needs will be explored to promote inclusion of children in their daily occupations and contexts. As a familiar context for many childhood occupations, occupational therapy services with the school setting will be discussed. By the conclusion of this course students will demonstrate an understanding of documentation standards to communicate the value of occupational therapy services to meet the needs of pediatric clients. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisites: OTA 2260, OTA 2270.

Corequisites: OTA 1290, OTA 2380.

OTA 2380 Aging with Lab – 2 credits

This course explores the role of the occupational therapy assistant in working with the aging population. Major topic areas include the process of aging, treatment techniques for working with the elderly, guidelines for supervision and management of activities/recreation programs, dementia, caregiving, and death and dying. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisites: OTA 2260, OTA 2270.

Corequisites: OTA 1290, OTA 2370.

OTA 2390 Primary Care and OT with Lab – 2 credits

This course addresses emerging practice areas for occupational therapy on interprofessional teams. The primary care needs of individuals and communities across the lifespan are emphasized. The service delivery model is community-based practice addressing prevention and risk-reduction for chronic conditions. The distinct role of the OTA on primary healthcare teams is related to understanding roles, habits, and routines to health and wellness and how to influence positive changes. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisites: OTA 1290, OTA 2370, OTA 2380.

Corequisite: OTA 2420.

OTA 2420 Applied Skills with Lab – 2 credits

This course enhances the student's skills and critical thinking throughout the occupational therapy process with clients across the age span and disability continuum in multiple service delivery modes. Case studies are used to organize the learning and prepare students for professional OTA practice. Offered in the College for Adults.

Prerequisites: OTA 1290, OTA 2370, OTA 2380.

Corequisite: OTA 2390.

OTA 2951 Independent Study – 1 credit