OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

ADMISSION INFORMATION

EFFECTIVE
2018 – 2020 Cohort
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# ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACOTE</td>
<td>Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADL</td>
<td>Activities of Daily Living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOTA</td>
<td>American Occupational Therapy Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTA</td>
<td>Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>Grade Point Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IADL</td>
<td>Instrumental Activities of Daily Living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBCOT</td>
<td>National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTA</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTR</td>
<td>Occupational Therapist, Registered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, Associate of Applied Science degree, offered by Wor-Wic Community College. We have compiled this booklet to help you understand the selection process and to guide you through the procedures you must follow to apply to this limited admission program.

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE BOOKLET. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED ALL STEPS OF THE ADMISSION PROCESS BY THE STATED DEADLINES.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please contact us at the following:

**Admissions**
Wor-Wic Community College
32000 Campus Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804
410-334-2895

**Occupational Therapy Assistant Program**
Wor-Wic Community College
32000 Campus Drive; AHB 307
Salisbury, MD 21804
410-572-8740

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ACCREDITATION

Wor-Wic is a state-approved two-year college. It is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market St., Philadelphia, PA, 19104, 267-284-5000. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program 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 is 301-652-AOTA and its Web address is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the program will be 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 individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). In addition, states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT Certification Exam or attain state licensure.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program has accreditation through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education.

COSTS

Prospective occupational therapy assistant students should refer to the college catalog for current tuition rates. In addition to tuition, other semester costs include registration fees, books, achievement tests, laboratory fees, and insurance. Students will need to comply with individual facility dress code policies for fieldwork placement. Prior to beginning clinical rotations, a background check, health inventory, and flu shot will be required. For information about financial aid, call our director of financial aid at 410-334-2903.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission, vision, and philosophy of the Wor-Wic Community College Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program provide the basis for the curriculum design. The OTA Program curriculum is built upon the fundamental belief of occupational therapy viewing people as unique occupational beings, with occupation defined as everyday activity.

The overall mission of the OTA program is to recruit, educate, and graduate a diverse group of students who are prepared to successfully pass the national certification exam for Occupational Therapy Assistants, obtain state licensure as Occupational Therapy Assistants, and enter the workforce as certified and licensed Occupational Therapy Assistants. Students enrolled in this program will obtain didactic and direct clinical experience at a variety of local institutions. These experiences may include acute hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, long term care facilities, day care centers, skilled nursing facilities, psychiatric facilities, pediatric centers, and the school system.
The model for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is adapted and developed from the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (OTPF), 3rd Edition, AOTA 2014. The OTPF “articulates occupational therapy’s contribution to promoting health and participation of people, organizations, and populations through engagement in occupation”. The participation and engagement in occupation is a dynamic process involving the individual, the practitioner, the environment, and the individual’s occupations. AOTA defines the practice of occupational therapy as the therapeutic use of occupations, or everyday life activities, with individuals or groups for the purpose of participation in roles and situations in home, school, work-place, community, and other settings.

Graduates of the OTA Program will have a comprehensive understanding of the theory and practice of how engagement and occupation, developmentally across the lifespan from birth to the end of life, can give meaning, fulfillment, and quality to an individual’s life. In addition to traditional classroom lecture, students will experience laboratory practicums, group work, cultural experiences, interaction with practitioners, and direct clinical fieldwork experiences. The program is built on the developmental premise of Participation & Health Through Occupation Across the Lifespan.

The following themes are embedded in the OTA Program curriculum and represent the developmental focus of the program:

1. Participation & Health across the Lifespan: Taken from the AOTA Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (2014), occupational therapy promotes “health and participation of people, organizations, and populations through engagement in occupation”. Participation and health across the lifespan is viewed from birth to the end of life.

2. Occupation across the Lifespan: The occupational therapy courses are structured developmentally addressing occupations and occupational therapy interventions, across the lifespan, from birth to the end of life.

Once admitted to the OTA Program students will find courses offered in a specific sequence. The general education courses are the basis of the program, building on each other developmentally. The OTA courses build one upon another with increasing cognitive and performance demands and expectations. Additionally, the occupational therapy courses build upon one another developmentally, across the lifespan, to explore and address occupations and interventions. The courses are built beginning with occupational therapy fundamental information and skills, moving to pediatrics, assistive technology, and activity analysis. These skills are then further developed, presented, practiced, and refined moving across the lifespan through adult and geriatric occupations. Mental health occupations and interventions are threaded through all developmental levels. The final academic component prior to Level II fieldwork involves an integration of professionalism, ethics, and research for Occupational Therapy practice. This establishes a progressive expectation of the student to integrate classroom knowledge with what is observed and practiced in the clinic. Additionally, it requires the ability to integrate information from multiple sources and to respond appropriately within occupational therapy intervention and practice. The overall academic goal, using the developmental focus, is for students to become independent learners who engage in lifelong learning.
Successful completion of the general education courses, occupational therapy assistant courses, and demonstration of professional behaviors, leads to placement in the Level II fieldwork courses. Upon successful completion of the Level II fieldwork placements, students are expected to enter the local workforce as entry level occupational therapy assistants. The following catalog objectives for graduates of the OTA Program directly relate to the mission, vision, and philosophy of the OTA Program. The objectives of the program are that graduates should be able to:

1. Engage and recognize the value of lifelong learning.
2. Understand physical and psychological development across the lifespan.
3. Understand the theory and practice of how engagement and occupation across the lifespan, give meaning, fulfillment, and quality to an individual’s life. Focus on Occupational Therapy’s Practice Framework and using the performance areas of occupation for intervention with individuals.
4. Demonstrate competency in the skills of an entry level Occupational Therapy Assistant, to include but not be limited to: observe patient performance, interpret performance, implement activity analysis, understand and take vital signs, understand and work with groups of patients, construct and/or modify a splint, prioritize treatment goals.
5. Demonstrate ability to assist with assessment and provide treatment for range of motion, muscle testing and strengthening, adaptations, gradation, activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living, cognitive skills, sensory skills, tactile skills, and fine motor performance.
6. Advocate for the client and profession of Occupational Therapy.
7. Demonstrate and use evidence based practice and occupational therapy techniques.
8. Comply with the Code of Ethics and Standards for Practice of Occupational Therapy.
9. Demonstrate collaborate relationships with Occupational Therapists and other health care team members.
10. Successfully pass the National Certification Examination for the Occupational Therapy Assistant.
Enter the Community Workforce as Occupational Therapy Assistant Practitioners

OTA Program Objectives

National Certification and State License

Level II Fieldwork with Integration of all Developmental Skills

Professionalism, Ethics, and Research Issues

Focused Psychosocial Occupations and Interventions

Adult & Geriatric Occupations & Interactions

Pediatric Occupations and Interventions

Occupational Therapy Philosophy – Fundamentals

General Education Courses

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Curriculum Design
PRE-ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Due to the limited number of spaces available in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, selection is on a competitive basis. Satisfactory completion of the following admission requirements does not guarantee you will be admitted into the program.

In order to be considered for admission into the program, you must complete ALL of the general and OTA application requirements and submit them to the OTA office by 4:00 p.m. on the THIRD Friday in June.

General Requirements

1. Complete the Wor-Wic Community College application process, list OTA as your major, and meet with OTA program staff.

2. Submit an official high school and college transcripts to the director of admissions. You can submit your application when you are a high school senior, but you must complete high school and submit your final transcript at least one week prior to the deadline of the year in which you are applying to the program.

3. Foreign students who want to be admitted as high school graduates or who want to transfer college credits into Wor-Wic must have their high school and college transcripts evaluated by an acceptable academic credential evaluation service, at their own expense. The registrar maintains a list of acceptable academic credential evaluation services.

OTA Application Requirements

1. Complete and submit an application for the OTA program.

2. Attend a mandatory, prospective student meeting with OTA program faculty. During the meeting, OTA applicants will review OTA policies, procedures, and be given an overview of the program and OTA career. If prospective students have not submitted their original official OTA program application, it should be submitted at the end of the meeting.

3. Successfully complete two, three-hour clinical observations in different and approved occupational therapy assistant settings. An observation verification form will be provided and must be completed, signed, and original forms turned in prior to the application deadline date.

4. Students must complete the pre-OTA courses with a GPA of at least 2.00. A course with a grade lower than a “C” will not be accepted. The GPA that is used for admissions purposes is based only on the grades earned in the pre-OTA courses, regardless of whether they were completed at Wor-Wic or at another regionally accredited college or university. The GPA calculation excludes SDV 100.
a. Pre-Occupational Therapy Assistant Courses

* BIO 202 Anatomy and Physiology I 4
* BIO 203 Anatomy and Physiology II 4
* ENG 101 Fundamentals of English I 3
* MTH 152 Elementary Statistics 3
  PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology 3
  SDV 100 Fundamentals of College Study 1

*This course has a prerequisite.

All pre-OTA courses must be completed before seeking program acceptance.

b. SDV 100 Fundamentals of College Study is not counted in the GPA but must be passed, completed with a “C” or higher, or have been waived by the registrar.

c. MTH 152 Elementary Statistics must be completed. MTH 154 College Algebra and Trigonometry will not be accepted. The math course MUST be a statistics course.

5. Students on academic probation are not eligible for program acceptance.

OTA applicants failing to complete any step of the admission requirements will be deemed ineligible for consideration.

Observations & Mandatory Prospective Student Meeting

As part of the OTA admission process, prospective students are required to complete two, three-hour observations and attend a scheduled, prospective student meeting. Observations must be done at select locations and be completed satisfactorily. Students must contact the person identified on the OTA site contact list, no other persons may be contacted. In order to satisfactorily complete observations, students must arrive promptly at their scheduled time; dress appropriately for the facility; communicate appropriately with the OT/OTAs, facility staff, other OTA students and patients; and demonstrate an interest in the observation experience.

Students attending a scheduled, mandatory prospective student meeting must also be present and engaged during the entire presentation. If a student is more than 10 minutes late, he/she will be required to attend another meeting. There will be a sign-in sheet where students will need to legibly print their name and write their signature as proof of attendance.

Admission requirements, program changes, and/or observation experiences may have changed since the student last attended a prospective student meeting. Therefore, if it has been more than two years since a student has completed observations and/or attended a prospective student meeting, he/she will be required to attend a new prospective student meeting and complete all hours of observation again.
OTA SELECTION PROCESS

1. Student applicants who have completed the admission requirements will be ranked by GPA from highest to lowest. In the event of ties, GPA scores are ranked by lottery. The top 16 students become the prospective students to be accepted into the Occupational Therapy Assistant program. The remaining ranked students on the list are numbered consecutively as alternates.

2. Prospective students are notified by mail of their acceptance or alternate status by the Director of Admissions.

3. Prospective students must accept or reject their position in the OTA program by the designated deadline listed on the acceptance letter.

4. **Prospective students who receive alternate status must re-apply to the program if they want to be considered for the following year.**

5. Students who have been dismissed twice from the program due to academic performance will be considered ineligible for the selection process.

SELECTION PRIORITIES

Preference is given to residents of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset Counties. Secondary preference is given to other Maryland residents with third selection priority to out-of-state residents.

Applications that are received late may or may not be accepted, depending on seat availability. Preference will be given to applications received prior to the deadline.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

If you are selected for admission, you must submit an acceptance form by the date that is stated on your acceptance letter. The occupational therapy assistant department will then register you for your courses. You will also be given a deadline to complete a physical examination, background check, and drug screening, and provide proof of: immunizations (MMR, tetanus, varicella, PPD), American Heart Association CPR basic life support for health care providers certification, and flu shot. Proof of Hepatitis B shot series or a signed denial is also required. Failure to provide this information may disqualify you from the program.

CLINIC REQUIREMENTS

Program requirements include clinical hours that must be completed in all semesters except the first fall semester. Clinic sites include locations that may be up to two (2) hours from Salisbury. Students are required to provide their own transportation to all clinic sites.

Level II internships in the final spring semester are a total of 16 weeks, which runs past the standard spring semester. While students will be allowed to walk in the May graduation ceremony, the actual date of conferment will be later.
PRIOR CONVICTION

Students applying to the OTA program should be aware that a prior felony conviction may affect the graduate’s ability to attend clinic and/or sit for the national certification examination and/or attain state licensure. For further clarification it is suggested the student contact the NBCOT at 301-990-7979 or the Maryland State Board of Occupational Therapy Practice at 410-402-8560 with specific questions.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Wor-Wic Community College will not accept transfer credits for occupational therapy assistant courses from another OTA program.

HEALTHCARE PACKET AND IMMUNIZATIONS

When a student leaves the program (for any reason), the student’s healthcare packet and all immunization records, including flu shots, CPR, and PPD results, will be destroyed. Neither copies nor originals will be returned to the student or provided to a third party including clinic sites, employers, or another program at Wor-Wic.

It is the policy of Wor-Wic Community College not to discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, color, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, or disability in the admission and treatment of students, access to educational programs and activities, and terms and conditions of employment. Student-related inquiries should be directed to the dean of student development at 410-334-2893, Wor-Wic Community College, 32000 Campus Drive, Salisbury, MD, 21804.
## OTA SCHEDULE – FIRST YEAR

### Fall Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★★ OTA 101</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★★ OTA 120</td>
<td>Analysis of Human Motion &amp; Performance: Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★★ OTA 140</td>
<td>Medical Terminology and Documentation for OT</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦  PSY 251</td>
<td>Human Growth &amp; Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦  PSY 252</td>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Spring Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★★ OTA 150</td>
<td>Pediatric Occupations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★★ OTA 160</td>
<td>OT Intervention for Pediatrics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★★ OTA 170</td>
<td>Assistive Technology: Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★★ OTA 180</td>
<td>Activity Analysis: Occupational Performance Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ ENG 151</td>
<td>Fundamentals of English II</td>
<td>3</td>
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### Summer Sessions

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★★ OTA 200</td>
<td>Adult &amp; Geriatric Occupations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★★ OTA 210</td>
<td>OT Intervention for Physical Health Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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## OTA SCHEDULE – SECOND YEAR

### Fall Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★★ OTA 220</td>
<td>Psychosocial Occupations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★★ OTA 230</td>
<td>OT Intervention for Psychosocial Health Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★★ OTA 250</td>
<td>Professionalism, Ethics and Research Issues for OT</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Spring Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* OTA 250</td>
<td>Level II Internship I (8 weeks)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* OTA 260</td>
<td>Level II Internship II (8 weeks)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This course has a prerequisite.
★This course has a corequisite.
♦This course can be taken before being accepted into the program.