# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

## ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM

Occupational Therapy is a dynamic and essential healthcare profession dedicated to empowering individuals to live life to its fullest. Whether recovering from injury, managing chronic conditions, maximizing wellness, or navigating developmental challenges, (just to name a few), Occupational Therapy Practitioners help people of all ages engage in the activities that matter most to them.

As an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA), you'll play a vital role in helping individuals build or regain the skills they need to thrive at home, at work, in school, and in their communities. OTAs work alongside Occupational Therapists(OTs) to deliver hands-on, personalized care that promotes independence, dignity, and quality of life.

KVCC has Maine's only Associate-level OTA program, preparing students to enter a high-demand field where compassion meets clinical expertise. Our graduates are equipped to make a meaningful difference—providing "skills for the job of living" and helping people overcome barriers to participation in everyday life

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*Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, ST 510E, Bethesda, MD 20814 Telephone: 301-652-AOTA, Website: www.acoteonline.org*

*"I've dreamed of being in the occupational therapy field for almost 10 years and am so thrilled to have found this program. The OTA program at KVCC has exceeded my expectations. I am getting a high quality education from competent professors who are passionate about what they do. I know that I am getting a first class, relevant education that is preparing me to be a fully competent OTA."*

### Help people regain function and independence




### What Occupational Therapy Assistant graduates do:

- Create Occupation-based interventions
- Restore function through rehabilitation activities
- Teach Independent living skills/acquisition
- Analyze occupational performance
- Customize treatment programs
- Recommend environmental modifications
- Provide neuromuscular and sensory techniques
- Assess/train assistive technology
- Promote health and wellness

### Career Opportunities:

- Hospitals
- Schools and pediatric settings
- Mental health inpatient/outpatient services
- Brain injury rehabilitation
- Inpatient/outpatient physical rehabilitation
- Workplace health centers
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Home health and in-home modifications
- And many more

For further questions about this program, please contact: kvccadmissions@mainecc.edu

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

**Associate of Applied Science Degree**

**First Semester**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BIO213 | Anatomy and Physiology I | 4 |
| ENG101 | College Composition | 3 |
| OTS101 | Introduction to Occupational Therapy and Human Occupation | 7 |
| PSY101 | Introduction to Psychology | 3 |

**Second Semester**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BIO214 | Anatomy and Physiology II | 4 |
| OTS103 | Functional Kinesiology | 3 |
| OTS104 | Interpersonal Skills for the Practicing | 1 |
| OTS110 | Occupational Therapy for Adults with Physical Disabilities I | 3 |
| OTS122 | Occupational Therapy for Children and Youth | 4 |
| PSY215 | Developmental Psychology | 3 |

**Summer Session (5 Weeks)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| COM104 | Introduction to Communication | 3 |
| OTS105 | Fieldwork Education I | 2 |
| OTS107 | Technology in OT Practice | 1 |
| OTS109 | Group Process | 1 |

**Third Semester**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| OTS201 | Practice Environments Seminar | 2 |
| OTS210 | Occupational Therapy for Adults with Physical Disabilities II | 3 |
| OTS216 | Occupational Therapy with Special Populations | 2 |
| OTS222 | Psychosocial Aspects of Occupational Therapy Across the Life Span | 5 |
| SOC101 | Introduction to Sociology | 3 |

**Fourth Semester**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| OTS206 | OTA Fieldwork Education II, A | 6 |
| OTS208 | OTA Fieldwork Education II, B | 6 |
| OTS223 | OT Senior Seminar | 1 |

**Total Credits** **70**

## CRITERIA FOR GRADUATION

Students must complete 70 credits in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program, achieve a minimum grade of "C," or "PASS" criteria, in all courses, and attain a final GPA of 2.00 or higher.

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

**Associate of Applied Science Degree**

## DESCRIPTION

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program at KVCC is a two-year program designed to prepare students for entry-level practice in a high-demand healthcare field. KVCC proudly offers Maine's only Associate-level OTA program, with a flexible hybrid delivery model that supports diverse learning needs. Students may choose to attend lectures in person on campus or virtually through live online sessions. Regardless of lecture format, all students are required to participate in in-person lab experiences to develop and refine hands-on clinical skills essential for practice.

To support accessibility across the state, students may complete lab experiences at one of three locations:

- Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC)
- Eastern Maine Community College (EMCC)
- York County Community College (YCCC)

Students will additionally engage in Level I and Level II fieldwork placements, which provide supervised, real-world opportunities to apply classroom learning, gain clinical experience, and develop professional competencies.

Students participating virtually must have access to a reliable internet connection and a computer or device capable of video conferencing. All learning environments—both physical and virtual—are designed to be accessible and inclusive, supporting student success across locations.

Occupational Therapy Assistants are essential members of the healthcare team who deliver client-centered care under the supervision of licensed Occupational Therapists. They play a critical role in helping individuals of all ages-from infants to older adults- overcome physical, emotional, and cognitive challenges that interfere with daily life.

OTAs use meaningful activities, or "occupations," to support clients in achieving greater independence and satisfaction in everyday tasks such as self-care, work, education, and leisure. Whether assisting someone in recovering from injury, adapting to disability, or developing life skills, OTAs help maximize engagement and participation in the routines and roles that matter most.

KVCC offers Maine's only Associate Degree OTA program, providing students with a unique opportunity to enter this rewarding profession. Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam. Upon successful completion, they can apply for licensure to practice as an OTA in the state of Maine. Licensed OTAs must maintain their credentials and adhere to professional standards, ensuring safe, effective, and ethical care. Their work makes a lasting impact on the lives of individuals, families, and communities—bringing purpose and possibility to everyday living.

## PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of the OTA program is to prepare competent, culturally responsive, skilled Occupational Therapy Assistants who will empower Maine's citizens to achieve independence, wellness, and quality of life, while honoring lived experience, individual choice, dignity, and personal satisfaction.

## EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program, a graduate is expected to:

1. Be prepared to successfully pass the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam.
2. Use professional values consistent with the American Occupational Therapy Association Core Values and Ethics Statements, that allow them to function ethically and responsibly by demonstrating tolerance and respect for diversity of culture, age, gender, and ability.
3. Effectively communicate with clients, families, supervisors, and other members of their work environment using cultural competence.
4. Employ critical thinking, logic, critical analysis, problem solving, and creativity within their scope of professional practice.
5. Identify and explore opportunities for lifelong learning through continuing education and professional competency as they relate to evidence-based practice and licensure requirements.
6. Engage in OT practice with entry level competence as a licensed Occupational Therapy Assistant.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must demonstrate academic readiness for the OTA program through taking of the TEAS exam or through multiple measures Please refer to the General admission guidelines which can be found on page 33 in the catalog. Additional admission requirements are as follows:

1. Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)
   - Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher (high school or college) AND
   - Minimum TEAS Scores of:
     • Composite - 61
     • Reading - 71
     • Math - 65
     • Science - 51
     • English – 63

   The TEAS may be taken a total of three (3) times—original test plus two (2) re-takes. Each re-take includes all subtest scores and attempts must be a 45-days apart. In addition the TEAS may only be taken twice in the same academic year (September 1 to August 31)

OR

2. Multiple Measures
   - Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher (high school or college)
   - AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
     A Grade of B or Better in these Core Classes: • BIO 213 – Anatomy & Physiology I • ENG 101 – College Composition • MAT 111 – Quantitative Reasoning
     OR
     Completion of the Health Science Certificate with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
     OR
     For High School Seniors - a grade of B or higher in Junior & Senior English, Algebra 1, Geometry, and an Anatomy & Physiology course (minimum College Prep or AP Level).

## POST ACCEPTANCE

**OTA Program Orientation**
Accepted students are required to attend (either in person or virtually) an accepted student event scheduled in June. You will be notified of the date by the Department Chair

**Pre-OTA Program Orientation**
Upon Acceptance into OTA program students will be enrolled in a non-credit, online course for the summer preceding their first semester in the program. This course will require students to complete a Job Shadow, and essay based on their shadow.

**OTA Program Orientation**
Accepted students are required to attend (either in person or virtually) an accepted student event scheduled in June. You will be notified of the date by the Department Chair

**Technology Requirements**
All students are required to have their own laptop computers or similar device with the capability to access Brightspace or similar online learning resources. Students must also have access to high-speed internet service.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION:

**Criminal Background Checks**
Applicants to certain programs need to note that a criminal background check will likely be required while enrolled in the program or as a condition of employment in the field. Certain internship and/or practicum sites, such as health care facilities, may limit or deny clinical privileges to those students who have a prior or current criminal record.

Should a clinical facility refuse to permit a student to complete a clinical rotation based upon the student's criminal background check, the student may not be able to complete the program. In the event a student is denied placement at a clinical site the College will likely be required to enter an academic dismissal from the program.

Additionally, certain licensing boards may refuse to issue a license to practice based upon prior or current criminal offense (s). To learn more about whether the program or profession in which you are interested has such requirements or limitations, contact the appropriate Department Chair.

**Finger Printing**
Finger printing may be required by certain clinical or fieldwork placements. All students are required to complete finger prints. Students are responsible for the cost associated with securing finger prints.

**Infectious Diseases**
Applicants who consider a career in Nursing or the Allied Health professions should be aware that during the course of their education and subsequent employment, they will be working in situations where exposure to infectious diseases is probable. This is an occupational risk for all health care workers. Persons should not become health care workers unless they recognize and accept this risk. Proper education and strict adherence to well-established infection control guidelines, however, can reduce the risk to a minimum. Thorough education in infection control procedures is an integral part of each health care program.




**Exposure to Latex**
Additionally, applicants should be aware that exposure to natural rubber latex (NRL) is likely. Individuals exposed to NRL products may develop allergic reactions such as skin rashes; hives; nasal, eyes, or sinus symptoms; and, rarely, shock.

**Costs**
Costs associated with required immunizations, criminal background checks, finger printing (when applicable) and admission testing are the responsibility of the applicant.

**Clinical/Fieldwork Placement**
Students may be scheduled for day, evening and night clinical/fieldwork experiences in some programs.

It is expected that the student is able to make the necessary arrangements in order to complete all scheduled times.

Placement is statewide. The student is responsible for all travel and/or living related to the clinical or fieldwork experience.

**Drug Testing**
Drug testing may be a requirement of clinical/ fieldwork education sites. Students will be responsible for the cost of such testing if required by the site.

## ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Students who have been accepted into the Occupational Therapy Assistant program must:

1. Agree to work with an outside agency to collect, document, and track required personal healthcare information (immunization status,

2. Complete BLS/CPR, healthcare background checks, and fingerprinting) as required by the OTA program. Each student is responsible for the cost of this service.
3. Assume personal responsibility for attaining and maintaining the necessary requirements for fieldwork:
    - immunizations, CPR, background check, and fingerprinting
    - transportation including travel up to 1.5 hours (to and from) fieldwork sites
    - other living costs to and from statewide fieldwork education sites.
4. Meet the OTA program's deadlines for developing and maintaining a current personal healthcare information portfolio.
5. Have professional liability insurance and healthcare insurance. See page 38 for costs.
6. Purchase required books.
7. Perform the Essential Performance Skills of the OTA student at KVCC, including professional and critical thinking skills with or without reasonable accommodations.

Note: Applicants to the OTA program should be aware that a national criminal background check and Maine Department of Education fingerprinting are required while they are enrolled in the program, and as a condition of employment in the field. Certain service learning/fieldwork/practicum sites, such as health care facilities, will most likely limit or deny clinical privileges to those who have a prior or current felony criminal record. State licensing boards may refuse to issue a license to practice based upon prior or current criminal offense(s).

## GRADUATE INFORMATION

Upon completion of the OTA program, graduates are:

- Eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination of 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).
- Required to be licensed to work in the State of Maine {Board of OT Practice, Office of Licensing and Registration, 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333; (207) 624-8603; www.maine.gov}

A felony conviction may affect a graduates ability to sit for the NBCOT Certification Examination or attain state licensure.

