

# Occupational Therapy Assistant

## Associate of Applied Science

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**Length:** Twenty-two months, (five semesters)

Offered in cooperation with Southwest Virginia Community College. Students admitted into the program will enroll with Southwest Virginia Community College. The degree will be awarded by Southwest Virginia Community College. Southwest Virginia Community College will have the final authority on program requirements.

**Purpose:** To prepare selected students to qualify as contributing members of the health care team who will care for patients under the supervision of a Registered Occupational Therapist. The goals of the occupational therapy team are to develop, restore, or maintain adaptive skills in individuals whose abilities to cope with daily living are threatened or impaired by disease, injury, developmental disability, or social disadvantage.

**Accreditation:** The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Southwest Virginia Community College with additional accredited site at Virginia Highlands Community College campus 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 c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and it's web address is [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org).

**Occupational Objectives:** Employment opportunities include positions in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, clinics, day care centers, long-term care facilities, schools, sheltered workshops, homebound programs and community agencies.

**Program Format:** The OTA program educational experiences consists of on-site lecture, online learning lecture to remote campus sites via video conferencing, hands-on laboratory, computer web-based instruction through Canvas, and a variety of clinical experiences. Students are required to complete a computer course and need to have skills necessary to navigate the internet for researching projects and assignments and utilizing the Canvas components for classes (i.e., online testing, online resources, grades, and discussions).

**Admission Requirements:** In addition to the general requirements for admission to the College, consideration for a position in this program requires the following:

1. Graduation from high school or satisfactory completion of the GED.
2. The completion of one year Biology with lab and Chemistry with lab or completion of BIO 141 and 142 ("C" or better grades)
3. High school seniors who have not completed the full sequence of the prerequisite courses must be enrolled in the second semester of these courses and have earned a grade of "C" or above for the first semester to be considered for program admission. Grades in these courses must reflect a minimum of "C". Any prescribed developmental courses must be successfully completed before the application deadline.
4. Minimum 2.5 high school or college curricular GPA – Based on Last School Attended Whether HS or College, with at least 12 credits completed
5. Competency must be demonstrated in Math and English via VPT scores or means and measures identified in Multiple Measures Placement Policy.
  - a. Place into ENG 111 or Completion of ENG 111 (grade "C" or better)
  - b. Proficiency in Math Modules MTE 1-6 or Completion of MTH 151 or higher (grade "C" or better)
6. A minimum of eight (8) hours of documented job shadowing in an occupational therapy setting with an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant should be submitted to the program director prior to the application deadline.

Students planning to transfer to senior institutions should inform their advisors and should consider coursework that can be used for transfer.

When enrollments must be limited for any curriculum, priority shall be given to all qualified applicants who are residents of the political subdivisions (Buchanan, Dickenson [partial], Russell, or Tazewell counties), supporting the College and to Virginia residents not having access to a given program at their local community college, provided such students apply for admission to the program prior to registration or by a deadline established by the College. In addition, residents of localities with the College have clinical-site or other agreements may receive equal consideration for admission.

Students residing in the college service area will be given priority consideration for admission to the program. Out-of-region applicants will only be considered for openings in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program after all qualified in-region applicants are considered. To be considered in-region, an applicant must be domiciled within the service region for 12 months prior to the program application deadline. Students accepted into the program are required to submit a certificate reflecting a successful physical examination, signed by a licensed physician. The physical examination must be completed after receiving notification of acceptance to the program and prior to beginning classes. Immunizations must be current and include Hepatitis B and MMR. Proof of Tuberculin skin test (PPD) and CPR certification must be shown on admission to the program and kept current throughout the program.

**Criminal Background Checks/Drug Testing:** Background checks for criminal history and sex offender crimes against minors are required for admission to the OTA program. Students with convictions may be prohibited from clinical practice and may not complete the program. Clinical agencies may require drug testing prior to placement of students for clinical rotations. Students with positive drug test results may be prohibited from clinical practice and may not complete the program. Cost for criminal background checks and drug testing will be the responsibility of the student.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

#### Academic Requirements:

The student is required to complete a sequence of courses and learning experiences. Students must achieve a grade of "C" or better in all program courses. Any student receiving a grade of "D" in any of the program courses will be placed on Program Probation. That course shall be remediated once, with a written contract containing the requirements of the remediation. Please note: Students may be required to wait at least one academic year before they will have an opportunity to remediate the course. Students on program probation status will only be allowed to remediate the course if there is an open position in the class and they have approval of the program director. Dismissal from the program shall result if: 1) the student does not meet the requirements of the probationary contract; 2) the student receives a final grade of less than "C" in any program courses either during or after the period of the Program Probation; or 3) earning more than one "D" in a semester on program courses or a final grade of "F" in any coursework after admittance to the program will result in dismissal from the program. Remediated courses must be completed with a final grade of "C" or better.

#### Clinical and Behavioral Requirements:

Selected and supervised learning experiences are required by this program and will be accomplished at selected health care facilities. Because there are limited clinical sites within the area, students may be required to travel to other areas to complete clinical training. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation, uniforms, and living expenses during fieldwork experiences. In the fifth semester, there will be 40 hours per week of clinical time (Level II fieldwork) in two eight week segments, so students must plan their schedules accordingly. Program faculty will observe and evaluate the student. If in the judgment of the program faculty the student does not exhibit those behaviors required of the occupational therapy assistant, the student may be asked to withdraw from the program.

**NOTE:** All OTA students must complete Level II Fieldwork within 18 months following completion of academic preparation.

**NOTE:** A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

Course Number	Course Title	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credits
<b>First Semester</b>				
BIO 141	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	3	3	4
ENG 111	College Composition I	3	0	3
HLT 143	Medical Terminology	3	0	3
OCT 100	Intro. to Occupational Therapy	3	0	3
PSY 230	<sup>1</sup> Development Psychology	3	0	3
SDV 104	Study Skills <b>OR</b>	1	0	1
SDV 101	College Success Skills			
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>				
BIO 142	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	3	3	4
OCT 201	Occupational Therapy with Psychosocial Dysfunction	3	0	3
OCT 195	Topics in OT for Physical Dysfunction	2	0	2
OCT 205	Therapeutic Media	1	3	2
NAS 195	Topics in Upper Extremity Anatomy & Kinesiology	1	0	1
Elective	<sup>2</sup> Humanities/Fine Arts	3	0	3
ITE 115	<sup>3</sup> Computers and Information Systems	3	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Summer Semester</b>				
OCT 190	Coord. Practice in OT I (Level I)	0	5	1
OCT 207	Therapeutic Skills	2	3	3
OCT 220	Occupational Therapy for the Adult	2	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Third Semester</b>				
OCT 210	Assistive Tech. in OT	2	0	2
OCT 202	Occupational Therapy with Physical Disabilities	3	3	4
OCT 203	Occupational Therapy with Developmental Disabilities	3	3	4
OCT 208	OT Service Mgmt. & Delivery	3	0	3
OCT 190	Coord. Pract. in OT II-Level I Fieldwork	0	5	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Fourth Semester</b>				
OCT 290	Coord. Pract. In OT III-Level II Fieldwork	0	40	6
OCT 290	Coord. Pract. In OT Iv-Level II Fieldwork	0	40	6
OCT 298	Seminar and Project in OTA	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total Credits for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program</b>		<b>68</b>		

**Footnotes:**

1. PSY 231 and 232 will substitute for PSY 230.
2. Humanities electives include: ART 201, 202; literature; MUS 121, 122; PHI 101; REL 200, 210, 230; CST 130, 151, 152.
3. AST 232, ITE 100 or ITE 119 may substitute for ITE 115.