

Occupational Therapy Assistant Mission Statement

The mission of the ATU-Ozark Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is to provide a strong foundation in the entry-level knowledge and skills necessary to excel in today's dynamic healthcare environment. While performing under the supervision of an occupational therapist, students learn the way humans translate action into meaning through creative occupational therapy services. We are focused on the importance of everyday occupations as it relates to the independence, health, safety and culture across an individual's lifespan. Students will learn to be ethical, competent, innovative and productive for the continued improvement of the community, the profession and of themselves.

The mission of the OTA program is to prepare the student for the following:

1. Entry into the health care environment with the required skills needed to perform the duties of an occupational therapy assistant.
2. Perform occupational therapy services under the supervision of an occupational therapist.
3. Provide theoretical and clinical knowledge necessary to excel in today's dynamic healthcare environment.
4. Educate the student in the importance of individual occupation as it relates to independence, health, safety and culture across a lifespan and in the variety of settings possible for the practice of occupational therapy.
5. Produce ethical, competent, creative and productive occupational therapy assistants who are dedicated to the continued improvement of the community, profession and of themselves.

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Philosophy

The OTA program at ATU holds that human beings are dynamic and ever changing throughout the life span. Occupation can be defined by age, gender, culture, environment, socioeconomics and geographics. Illness, accidents or disability can interrupt the process of human development that generally defines the occupation of life.

According to the philosophical base of Occupational Therapy, "Occupations are activities that bring meaning to the daily lives of individuals, families, and communities and enable

them to participate in society. All individuals have an innate need and right to engage in meaningful occupations throughout their lives.” The role of the occupational therapy assistant, under this philosophy, is to assist individuals who have experienced a disruption in their life, to adapt and overcome these interruptions in human development. The job of ATU’s occupational therapy assistant program is to educate students to be able to identify “occupation” for each client and use sound, evidence-based practice to assist that client in adaptation to their situation. The core belief of this philosophy is that human beings are each unique and each has a relationship with the world that is individual to that person. The role of occupational therapy then becomes to maximize an individual’s performance with meaningful, desired activities. Such activities may include:

- Returning to home management skills
- Improving self-care skills
- Returning to job
- Returning to parenting and family life
- Improving of school performance
- Regaining movement, memory or social skills after an accident
- Improving independent living

References:

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