

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT (OTA) PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please note: The OTA program classes are located at Morton Hall in Russellville, Arkansas

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

In order to be considered for admission to the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program, each student must meet the following criteria:

- Eligibility for admission to Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus
- Completion of platform coursework with a minimum 2.5 GPA
 - Conditional acceptance may be granted to those students who are in the process of completing the remaining platform coursework
 - Failure to maintain a **2.5 GPA** upon completion of remaining platform coursework may lead to forfeiture of the OTA program admission offer
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Completion of **8** volunteer hours with one occupational therapist (OTR) or occupational therapy assistant (OTA) with rating scale completed and turned in with application packet
- Completion of OTA Program Application for Admission
- Minimum TEAS Composite Score of 63%
- A typed original essay about your understanding of OT as a health care profession. Provide a discussion of the following in your essay:
 1. ***Explain what you feel your role as an OTA will be in the field of occupational therapy.***
 2. ***Explain what you feel makes OTA a unique health care profession.***
 3. ***Use at least one example from experiences you have had with occupational therapy.***

READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

1. Each applicant must apply for admission to Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus **BEFORE** applying to the OTA program. Application information may be obtained by contacting the Office of Student Services in person or through the following:

Office of Student Services
Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus
1700 Helberg Lane
Ozark, AR 72949

2. The following are required for application:
 - OTA program application for admission
 - Acknowledgement of essential functions form
 - Understanding of clinical participation requirements form
 - Clinical observation rating scale (to be filled out by supervising OT or OTA after clinical observation). This must be done in the six-month period prior to application.
 - Typewritten essay (no more than one page in length) – See essay instructions.
 - Current copy of Basic Life Support CPR for Health Care Providers from American Heart Association (AHA) or American Red Cross (must have prior to the first day of class).
3. Each applicant is responsible for verifying that all of the above-requested information has been completed and submitted to the Allied Health Administrative Assistant by March 1, 2027. All application items requested should be submitted as a complete packet if possible or physically brought to the Allied Health Administrative Assistant in the Health Education Building. Applicants are responsible for items sent separately.

The above items must be received by the Allied Health Administrative Assistant **BY MAIL OR IN PERSON** by **March 1, 2027** in order to be considered complete:

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
Attn: Allied Health Administrative Assistant
Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus
1700 Helberg Lane
Ozark, Arkansas 72949

4. Once the application is complete and after the March 1 application deadline has passed, the Allied Health Administrative Assistant will send out dates, times, and registration information for the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) test via email. This test will be given at Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus **AFTER** the March 1 application deadline.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS APPLICATION PACKET IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE OTA PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

INSTRUCTIONS AND SCORING RUBRIC OTA ADMISSIONS ESSAY

Essay: *Submit an original essay about your understanding of OT as a unique health care profession. Use at least one example from experiences you have had with OT. Explain what you feel your role as an OTA will be in the field of occupational therapy. Essay must be: one page, double spaced, typed, Times New Roman, 12-point font.*

Qualities and Criteria	Insufficient (0)	Limited (1)	Adequate (2)	Strong (3)
Understanding of OT- 25% - Discussion of “occupation” as defined by the profession - Understanding of occupational therapy’s unique role in health care	Essay does not demonstrate understanding of occupation or occupational therapy’s unique role in health care.	Essay poorly addresses the issues referred to in the proposed topic. The provided information is not necessary or not sufficient to discuss this issue.	Essay for the most part addresses that occupational therapy uses functional activities for therapy. Provided information is a basic understanding of the role of the occupational therapist.	Essay addresses the use of occupation as therapy. Minimum of one statement about the difference in “occupational therapy” compared to different fields of practice.
Experience of OT - 25% - Explanation/validity of experiences with OT - Understanding of the role of the OTA	Most of the experiences used are not important and are not occupational therapy. There is no experiential reference, and/or it is not used effectively in the essay.	The experiences used display limited understanding of occupational therapy. Experiential reference is not used effectively in the essay.	Most of the experiences used are important and relevant. There is a minimum of 1 example referenced and is for the most part used effectively in the essay.	All the experiences referenced used are important and are of good quality. There is a minimum of 1 experience referenced that is used effectively in the essay.
Quality of Writing- 25% Grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence variety, word choice, professional tone	Essay contains pervasive errors in grammar, mechanics, spelling, or use of English impeding professional tone.	Essay contains noticeable mechanical flaws. Frequent grammar, mechanics, spelling, or use of English errors.	The essay is well written for the most part. Contains virtually no errors, or only rare, minor mechanical errors that do not distract from the meaning.	The essay is well written from start to finish. Completely free of grammar, mechanics, spelling, or use of English errors.
Organization of Writing- 25% - Clarity of sentences and paragraphs - Organization and coherence of ideas	Writing lacks clarity and logical organization. Requires substantial revision.	Writing communicated ideas but contains noticeable organizational flaws.	Writing is clear, organized, and easy to follow. Ideas are expressed logically with a professional tone.	Writing is clear, concise, and professionally articulate. Flow, organization, and transitions are seamless.

Overriding criterion: If the essay is identified as previously submitted, not being original, and/or not done by the student, the director has the authority to not use it during the application process. This rating scale is designed for 50% of the score to content and 50% on style/grammar/use of language. Because the occupational therapy profession is heavily reliant on written communication, it is felt that this is a valuable part of the admissions process for the OTA program.

PLATFORM COURSEWORK

Students will be required to complete 28 hours of platform coursework with a minimum 2.5 GPA prior to admission to the technical phase of the OTA program. Applicants with platform coursework completed at other institutions should have their official transcripts sent to the Office of Student Services for review.

The platform coursework includes the following:

Note: All courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better before the start of the OTA Program.

2026-2027 Academic Year Platform Courses

PREFIX	NUMBER	TITLE	CREDIT HRS
HSCI	1123	Human Anatomical Structure	3
HSCI	1113	Medical Terminology	3
BUS or COMS or COMS	1303 or 1003 or 2003	Introduction to Computers Introduction to Computer-Based Systems Microcomputer Applications	3
ENGL	1013	Composition I	3
MATH	1113	College Algebra or College Mathematics	3
PHSC or BIOL	1013 & 1021 or 1014	Introduction to Physical Science Introduction to Physical Science Lab Introduction to Biological Science with lab (4 CR HRS)	3 1
HSCI	1243	Human Anatomical Structure II	3
ENGL	1023	Composition II	3
PSY	2003	General Psychology	3
		TOTAL PLATFORM HOURS	28

(Substitution and/or waiving of platform coursework will be at the discretion of the OTA program director in accordance with the policies and procedures of Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus)

Important Academic Year Information: Students completing the Occupational Therapy Assistant platform coursework during the 2026–2027 academic year will complete the courses listed above.

Beginning with the 2027–2028 academic year, Introduction to Computers will no longer be required. U.S. History will replace Introduction to Computers, and an American Government course will also be required. As a result, the total hours required for the AAS Occupational Therapy program will increase from 71 to 74 credit hours.

2027-2028 Academic Year Platform Courses

PREFIX	NUMBER	TITLE	CREDIT HRS
HSCI	1123	Human Anatomical Structure	3
HSCI	1113	Medical Terminology	3

HIST or HIST or HIST	1903 or 2003 or 2013	Survey of American History United States History to 1877 United States History since 1877	3
ENGL	1013	Composition I	3
MATH	1113	College Algebra or College Mathematics	3
PHSC or BIOL	1013 & 1021 or 1014	Introduction to Physical Science Introduction to Physical Science Lab Introduction to Biological Science with lab (4 CR HRS)	3 1
HSCI	1243	Human Anatomical Structure II	3
ENGL	1023	Composition II	3
POLS	2003	American Government	3
PSY	2003	General Psychology	3
TOTAL PLATFORM HOURS			31

OTA TECHNICAL COURSEWORK

Students must apply to the technical phase of the program following completion of the platform coursework. Admission to the technical phase is competitive due to limited enrollment. Satisfactory completion of the technical coursework will enable a student to graduate with an Associate of Applied Science, take the NBCOT certification exam, and apply for state licensure as an OTA. The technical phase of the program includes a combination of classroom/laboratory study and 16 total weeks of required fieldwork education. During the classroom/laboratory portion of the program, students will have the opportunity to learn OT procedures and practice specific procedures on fellow OTA students. Students will be expected to participate in all class and laboratory activities as both a demonstration subject and a simulated patient for their classmates. The fieldwork education portion of the program consists of working with patients in a clinical facility as a student for 40 hours per week while under the supervision of a fieldwork instructor. Fieldwork education sites are located in various cities and towns throughout the area and some may even require lodging due to their distance from the campus. Students will be responsible for all travel associated with clinical education. In addition, each student will be responsible for all meals and lodging associated with fieldwork education, unless provisions are made by the site to which they are assigned. Projected technical coursework will include the following:

OTA Course Sequence

Fall

Foundations of Occupational Therapy	2	OTA 2102
Human Movement and Activity Analysis for Occupation	2	OTA 2132
Human Movement and Activity Analysis for Occupation LAB	2	OTA 2122
Theory and Treatment for Human Conditions I	2	OTA 2152
Modalities for Human Conditions I LAB	2	OTA 2112
Medical Conditions for the OTA	2	OTA 2142
Documentation for Occupational Therapy	1	OTA 2221
Level I Fieldwork-A	1	OTA 2111

Total 14 hours

Spring

Theory and Treatment for Human Conditions II	2	OTA 2252
Modalities for Human Conditions II LAB	2	OTA 2212
Group Processes and Dynamics	2	OTA 2232
Human Occupation and Clinical Reasoning	2	OTA 2202
Human Occupation and Clinical Reasoning LAB	2	OTA 2242
Assistive Technology and Environmental Adaptation	2	OTA 2262
Management and Licensure for the OTA	2	OTA 2162
Level I Fieldwork- B	1	OTA 2211

Total 15 hours

Summer

OTA Professional Development	2	OTA 2302
Theory and Treatment for Human Conditions III	2	OTA 2322
Modalities for Human Conditions III LAB with Level IC Psychosocial Fieldwork	2	OTA 2312
Level II Fieldwork – A-1	2	OTA 2412

Total 8 hours

Fall

Level II Fieldwork – A-2 (Continuation of A-1)	2	OTA 2422
Level II Fieldwork – B	4	OTA 2424

Total 6 hours

Total number of hours for the OTA program: 43 hours

CLASS SIZE

The Fall program will accept 20 students and have up to 10 alternates.

CLINICAL OBSERVATION

Applicants must complete **8** hours of clinical observation with one OT or OTA and submit the clinical observation verification and rating scale. The purpose of the clinical observation requirement is to provide prospective students with a better understanding of the OT profession and the role of the OTA. Applicants are encouraged to abide by the following guidelines when completing the clinical observation requirement:

- Call clinical sites in order to arrange an appointment for observation. Explain to the supervising OT or OTA regarding your intention to apply to an OTA program. Also, explain to the therapist that you would like to observe either an OT or OTA at their facility.
- Provide the supervisor a copy of the Clinical Observation form.
- Dress appropriately for your observation appointment. Appropriate dress includes closed-toed shoes, slacks (khakis are acceptable), and a collared shirt or nice blouse. Avoid jeans, T-shirts, sandals, excessive perfume, and hats. In addition, visible tattoos may need to be concealed and body piercings (other than a single-stud type earring) may need to be removed. The clinical facility has the right to send you away if your appearance is considered inappropriate.
- Be punctual for your observation appointment. If you can't make the appointment, please be sure to call the clinical facility to cancel and re-schedule as necessary.
- Maintain confidentiality. Students must remember to never mention a patient's name, medical diagnosis, or treatment when outside of the facility.
- Be courteous and pay attention to the treatment procedures you are observing. Also, remember to thank the supervising OT or OTA for allowing you to observe in their facility.
- Observation time is not considered a clinical experience, it is **NOT** recommended for students to perform any hands-on patient-related activities for the safety of the patient and the student

The student is responsible for ensuring that the completed Clinical Observation form is included with the other application materials.

MEMORANDUM

TO: OT/OTA Observation Supervisor

FROM: Arkansas Tech University-Ozark, Department of Occupational Therapy Assistant

DATE: September 21, 2026

SUBJECT: Required volunteer/observation experience

Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus' Department of Occupational Therapy Assistant requires a volunteer/observation experience for all program applicants. This experience must be for a minimum of **8** hours and may be completed in any occupational therapy setting under the supervision of one (1) registered occupational therapist (OTR) or certified occupational therapy assistant (COTA). It is the responsibility of the applicant to decide whether to be with an OTR or COTA for this experience. The applicant is also responsible for obtaining the clinical observation evaluation form from Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus and giving it to the supervising therapist. This requirement must be met and all forms returned by the application deadline.

Guidelines for the volunteer experience are as follows:

1. The applicant decides with an OTR/COTA to complete the 8 hours of clinical observation. It is up to the applicant and therapist to agree on the schedule for these hours (i.e., 4 hours per day, 2 hours per week, etc.). This is a voluntary service provided by the therapist. Therapists are NOT obligated to provide this experience.
2. The applicant gives the OTR/COTA the evaluation forms the first day of the volunteer experience.
3. **Once the volunteer experience is finished, the OTR/COTA completes the evaluation form, seals it in an envelope, and signs his/her name across the seal.**
4. The evaluation form **MUST** be received prior to the application deadline.
5. Each of the required 8 hours of observation **MUST** be completed with one OTR or OTA.
6. Observation hours must be dated within the current 6 months preceding the application. For example, an applicant for the 2027 class must have observation hours completed between October 2026 and March 2027.
7. Applicants will not be allowed to use current or previous work site as observation hours, nor can an applicant observe under a therapist who is a family member or friend.
8. Observation time is not considered a clinical experience, it is **NOT** recommended for students to perform any hands-on patient related activities for the safety of the patient and the student.



OZARK CAMPUS

CLINICAL OBSERVATION EVALUATION FORM

Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____

In requesting the completion of this evaluation form, which will be used in the admission selection process for the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus, I waive my right of access to this document. The supervising OT/OTA should fill out pages 1-3 of the observation form. Please review the attached Memorandum for observation experience instructions.

OT/OTA Supervisor complete the following:

OT/OTA Supervisor State and License #: _____

Facility and Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Number of volunteer/observation hours completed at your facility: _____

The observation student is a previous employee, personal friend or family member: ____ Yes ____ No

Student Signature: _____

OT/OTA completing this form: _____

Print Name

Signature

SUPERVISING THERAPIST: Please fill out these forms confidentially, place them in an envelope, seal the envelope, and sign your name across the seal. **The student should not see this form and has waived the right to view the scores.** Please return the envelope to the student to turn in as part of his/her OTA application. Please note that observation time should be strictly hands-off interactions between the student and the recipients of services. Thank you!

Instructions: Please circle the number closest to the best description of the student on the first page. On the second page, please wait until the end of observation and ask the student the questions listed. Please rate the student's answers.

1. Personal Appearance

1	2	3	4	5
Sloppy, too casual, overly revealing		At least one clothing item inappropriate, dirty, ripped		Complies with dress code

2. Attendance

1	2	3	4	5
Poor, often late/absent		Less than 10 minutes late		Always punctual

3. Attitude Toward Patients

1	2	3	4	5
Rude, careless, disrespectful		Indifferent or overly chatty		Pleasant, appropriate

4. Attitude Toward Staff

1	2	3	4	5
Rude, sullen		Indifferent or overly friendly		Cooperative, respectful

5. Communication Skills

1	2	3	4	5
Poor listener, no attempts to ask questions Talks about self only		Unclear questions, random attempts		Thoughtful questions, on topic

6. Motivation

1	2	3	4	5
Disinterested in patient care		Occasional interest in therapy process		Seeks out learning in appropriate ways

7. Please ask the student the following question and rate the answer: “Why do you wish to work in the field of occupational therapy?”

1	2	3	4	5
Unable to answer	Minimal information	Appropriate information, difficulty articulating or rehearsed answers	Quality information Basic OT knowledge	Excellent information Specific OT knowledge

8. Please ask the student the following question and rate the answer: “What does occupational therapy mean to you?”

1	2	3	4	5
Unable to answer	Minimal information	Appropriate information, difficulty articulating or rehearsed answers	Quality information Basic OT knowledge	Excellent information Specific OT knowledge

9. Please ask the student the following question and rate the answer: “What do you feel makes occupational therapy unique to other therapy professions?”

1	2	3	4	5
Unable to answer	Minimal information	Appropriate information, difficulty articulating or rehearsed answers	Quality information Basic OT knowledge	Excellent information Specific OT knowledge

10. Please ask the student the following question and rate the answer: “What is one thing you feel you have learned during your observation?”

1	2	3	4	5
Unable to answer	Minimal information	Appropriate information, difficulty articulating or rehearsed answers	Quality information Basic OT knowledge	Excellent information Specific OT knowledge

Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) Exam

The TEAS is scheduled by the Allied Health Administrative Assistant after the application deadline. An email with available test dates will be sent to the email address provided on the application. Prior to taking the TEAS, applicants will be required to register and pay a testing fee at atitesting.com. The TEAS is a computerized test and therefore test scores will be immediately available. Test results will then be forwarded to the Occupational Therapy Assistant program office and the Office of Student Services. Acceptance of TEAS results from online testing and/or at locations other than Arkansas Tech University- Ozark Campus are allowed, providing the results meet additional requirements. For more information regarding TEAS test policies and procedures, please visit the following link: <https://www.atu.edu/ozark/teas/index.php>

SELECTION CRITERIA

Due to the limited spots available for each class of OTA students, the OTA program must use a method of ranking each candidate according to the candidate's qualifications. The following will be used in the selection process:

TEAS score:	70% of overall selection score
Essay:	15% of overall selection score
Clinical observation rating form	15% of overall selection score

The three components are combined to determine the applicant's overall selection score, with the percentages above totaling 100%.

In the case of a tie in the application score for applicants, the following criteria will be utilized as tiebreakers (the criteria are arranged in order of importance):

1. Cumulative GPA for all college coursework completed prior to the application deadline
2. Number of platform hours completed prior to application deadline
3. Date of submission of completed OTA program application materials

SELECTION PROCESS

Offers of admission for available spaces will be made to the qualified applicants with the highest overall ratings. All applicants will be notified by the OTA Program of their admission status. Applicants accepted into the program must notify the OTA Program office as soon as possible of their decision to accept or decline the offer of admission. Applicants who decline admission or are not accepted for admission may reapply for admission the following year. In the event an opening for a student becomes available, then applicants from the alternate list will be admitted according to individual ranking.

The timeline for the application and selection process is:

By March 1

OTA program application and all forms included in packet (including essay and clinical observation form) are due. Students with completed applications will be scheduled for TEAS exams by the Allied Health Administrative Assistant.

After May 1

OTA applications will be reviewed and students will be selected for entry to the technical coursework.

FINANCIAL AID

Students requesting information regarding financial aid are encouraged to contact the Financial Aid Office as follows:

Financial Aid Office
1700 Helberg Lane
Ozark, Arkansas 72949

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus does not discriminate on the basis of color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, age, religion, national origin, or disability, in any of its practices, policies, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admission, employment, financial aid, or educational service. Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus complies with all applicable state and federal laws including, but not limited to, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 as amended, Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1974, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991. A copy of the Affirmative Action Plan, including specific responsibilities and provisions for implementation and compliance will be made available upon request. Responsibility for implementation and compliance with this Affirmative Action policy has been delegated to the Affirmative Action officer, e-mail affirmative.action@atu.edu

PROJECTED PROGRAM COSTS

Estimated costs for enrollment in the technical phase of the OTA program are as follows:

- Approximately \$10,611.00 for tuition, fees and textbooks
- Approximately \$200 for uniforms and lab supplies
- Approximately \$50 for TB testing
- Approximately \$90 for Hepatitis B vaccination
- Approximately \$75 for AOTA membership
- Approximately \$20 for AROTA membership
- Approximately \$25 for Criminal and Child Maltreatment background checks
- Approximately \$15 careLearning membership
- \$15 for a campus parking permit

The above projected costs are subject to change.

ATU OTA ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus' Associate of Applied Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its Web address is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for occupational therapy assistants administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a COTA. In addition, most 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 examination or attain state licensure

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

Students admitted to the OTA program will be expected to obtain criminal background checks following entry into the program. Criminal background checks may be a requirement for attendance at some of the clinical education sites affiliated with the OTA program. Based upon the results of these checks, an affiliated clinical education site may determine not to allow a particular student's presence at a facility. In addition, a criminal background may preclude licensure or employment following graduation. Students are responsible for the associated costs and delivery of background results to the clinical facility requesting the information. **Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.**

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING

Drug and alcohol testing may be a requirement for attendance at some of the clinical education sites affiliated with the OTA program. Based upon the results of these checks, an affiliated clinical education site may determine not to allow a particular student's presence at a facility. The student is responsible for the costs associated with any drug and alcohol testing required for attendance at a particular clinical education site. In addition, the student is also responsible for submission of testing results to the clinical education facility requesting the information.

STUDENT HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Students admitted to the OTA program will be expected to provide health information and participate in a physical examination to be performed by a physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner. The purpose of the physical examination is to determine the student's ability to safely perform the physical demands expected of an OTA. The purpose of the health information form is to enable the student an opportunity to provide pertinent information to the OTA program which may affect the student's ability to safely participate in laboratory and clinical education activities.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Successful participation in the OTA program includes the ability to perform essential functions, which are necessary for delivery of occupational therapy services in a safe, ethical, and legal manner. The essential functions are expected to be demonstrated, with or without reasonable accommodation, by students participating in the OTA program. Upon reviewing the essential functions for the OTA student included in this packet, the candidate will complete the acknowledgment of essential functions for the occupational therapy assistant student form and indicate whether or not that student can perform the essential functions. Prior to admission to the program, the student is responsible for providing written documentation of any disabilities,

along with evidence for the need for accommodation. Requests for accommodations will be forwarded to the disability coordinator for the university. The university will then decide if reasonable accommodations can be made for that particular student.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Clinical sites may have requirements in addition to those required by the university. This may include the COVID-19 vaccination. Failure to comply with this additional requirement may result in the inability to complete the clinical coursework for the program.

Occupational Therapy Assistants Essential Functions

Essential functions describe the tasks, skills, abilities, work activities, work context, and work styles that are required for the completion of the OTA Program and to work as generalist occupational therapy assistants. The student is required to meet all objectives related to the coursework and fieldwork experiences. Physical, emotional, cognitive, and environmental demands will vary throughout the curriculum and fieldwork experience. This list is a summary of the essential functions, but is not meant to be all-inclusive. More specific information can be found in the Dictionary of Occupational Title published by the United States Government or the O*Net website at <http://online.onetcenter.org>. Throughout the educational program and later throughout their careers, OTAs must be able to perform these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations.

Tasks

- Observe and record patients' progress, attitudes and behavior, and maintain this information in client records.
- Maintain and promote a positive attitude toward clients and their treatment programs.
- Monitor patient's performance in therapy activities, providing encouragement.
- Select therapy activities to fit patient's needs and capabilities.
- Instruct, or assist in instructing, patients and families in home programs, basic living skills, and the care and use of adaptive equipment.
- Evaluate the daily living skills and capabilities of physically, developmentally, or emotionally disabled clients.
- Aid patient in dressing and grooming themselves.
- Implement or assist occupational therapists with implementing treatment plans designed to help clients function independently.
- Report to supervisors verbally or in writing on patient's progress, attitudes and behavior.
- Alter treatment programs to obtain results if treatment is not having the intended effect.

Skills

- **Active listening** - giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- **Time management** - managing one's own time and the time of others.
- **Instructing** - teaching others how to do something.
- **Speaking** - talking to others to convey information effectively.
- **Social perceptiveness** - being aware of other's reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
- **Critical thinking** - using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses or alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems.

- **Learning strategies** - selecting and using training methods and procedures appropriate for the situation when learning or teaching new things.
- **Reading comprehension** - understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- **Writing**- communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.
- **Monitoring** - monitoring/assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

Abilities

- **Oral comprehension** - the ability to listen and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.
- **Problem sensitivity** - the ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognize there is a problem.
- **Oral expression** - the ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.
- **Written comprehension** - the ability to read and understand information and ideas presented in writing.
- **Deductive reasoning** - the ability to apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense.

Work Activities

- **Assisting and caring for others** - providing personal assistance, medical attention, emotional support, or other personal care to others such as coworkers, customers, or patients.
- **Communicating with supervisors, peers or subordinates** - providing information to supervisors, coworkers, and subordinates by telephone, in written form, e-mail, or in person.
- **Making decisions and problem solving** - analyzing information and evaluating results to choose the best solutions and solve problems.
- **Establishing and maintaining interpersonal relationships** - developing constructive and cooperative working relationships with others and maintaining them over time.
- **Evaluating information to determine compliance with standards** - using relevant information and individual judgment to determine whether events or processes comply with laws, regulations, or standards.
- **Organizing, planning and prioritizing work** - developing specific goals and plans to prioritize, organize, and accomplish your work.

Work Styles

- **Cooperation** - job requires being pleasant with others on the job and displaying a good-natured, cooperative attitude.
- **Dependability** - job requires being reliable, responsible, dependable, and fulfilling obligations.
- **Flexibility** - job requires being open to change (positive or negative) and to considerable variety in the workplace.
- **Concern for others** - job requires being sensitive to other's needs and feelings and being understanding and helpful on the job.
- **Stress tolerance** - job requires accepting criticism and dealing calmly and effectively with high stress situations.
- **Attention to detail** - job requires being careful about detail and thorough in completing work tasks.
- **Self-control** - job requires maintaining composure, keeping emotions in check, controlling anger, and avoiding aggressive behavior, even in very difficult situations.
- **Independence** - job requires developing one's own ways of doing things, guiding oneself with little or no supervision, and depending on oneself to get things done.

Psychomotor Capabilities

- **General physical activities** - the ability to perform activities such as climbing, lifting, positioning, transferring and transporting clients, provide contact guard assistance, balancing, walking, bending, and stooping frequently throughout the workday.
- **Strength** - the ability to lift up to 25 pounds frequently and up to 50 pounds occasionally throughout the workday; working at the medium physical demand level according to the U.S. Department of Labor (37.02).
- **Manual dexterity** - the ability to safely grasp and manipulate objects.
- **Speed** - the ability to respond without hesitation to compromised patients.
- **Endurance** - have the physical capacity to work a 40-hour week.

*Information taken from the O*Net website on Occupational Therapy Assistants*