

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Program Number: 10-514-1

Associate in Applied Arts Degree

Health-Related Professions Program Cluster

Center of Health & Safety Education

Program offered at the Downtown Campus

For information call: (608) 246-6065 or
(800) 322-6282 Ext. 6065

About the Program

Occupational therapy assistants serve individuals across the life span whose ability to participate in everyday occupations is complicated by developmental disability, physical and/or emotional illness, injury or aging. Occupations are the activities of daily life that have value to individuals and help them be contributing members of their communities. Occupational therapy assistants 1) use purposeful activities to improve the physical, cognitive, emotional and social skills needed to function; 2) offer alternative approaches and adaptations to compensate when needed and 3) promote the balance of self-care, work and leisure activities that results in the quality of life and level of independence valued by the individual.

This program prepares occupational therapy assistants who collaborate with occupational therapists. OT assistants are employed in community settings providing mental health, residential care and home health and work-related services as well as in nursing homes, hospitals and schools.

Accreditation/Credentialing: This program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220, (301) 652-AOTA. Credentialing as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) is separate from Madison College graduation. Certification with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) requires passing a nationally administered OTA competency examination. Licensure by the State of Wisconsin or other states requires passing this certification exam and complying with any other state credentialing requirements. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

NBCOT Exam Pass Rates:

The total number of graduates who passed the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) certification examination as first-time new graduate test takers in 2008–2010 was 40 out of 40, which is a pass rate of 100%. During that 3-year time period, the program had 42 graduates.

Unique Requirements for Admission

1) High school graduate or equivalent. 2) **Chemistry:** Two semesters of high school chemistry, which includes lab components, with a C or better each semester (Chemistry for the Community, ChemCom or similar classes are not acceptable) OR one semester of college-level chemistry course (Nature of Chemistry 10-806-102, General Chemistry 10-806-134, or a higher level course) with a grade of C or better. 3) **Algebra:** Algebra competency (within two years) demonstrated through satisfactory competency test scores OR one semester of college-level algebra with satisfactory grade of C or better (Elementary Algebra 10-834-110, or a higher level course) with a grade of C or better. 4) **Biology:** Two semesters of high school biology with a C or better each semester OR one semester of college-level biology (General Anatomy & Physiology 20-800-206 or a higher level course) with a grade of C or better. 5) Acceptable ACT, SAT, COMPASS or equivalent assessment test.

Curriculum

The courses listed below outline the requirements for graduation for students entering this program in the 2011-2012 academic year. Requirements for graduation may vary depending on the semester in which a student is admitted to their program.

Current/continuing students should consult their degree progress report available through their student center (myMadisonCollege) account for specific graduation requirements. Program requirements are subject to change.

FIRST YEAR

First Semester		Credits	Hrs/week Lec-Lab
10-514-171	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	3	2-1
10-514-172	Medical and Psychosocial Conditions	3	2-1
10-514-173	Activity Analysis and Applications	2	0-2
10-801-195	Written Communication* OR	3	3-0
20-801-201	English Composition 1*	(3)	(3-0)
20-806-206	General Anatomy and Physiology* ***	4	3-2
20-809-231	Introduction to Psychology*	(3)	(3-0)
Semester Total		18	

Second Semester

10-514-174	OT Performances Skills	4	0-4
10-514-175	Psychosocial Practice	3	1-2
10-514-176	OT Theory and Practice	3	1-2
10-514-178	Geriatric Practice	3	1-2
20-809-237	Abnormal Psychology *	3	3-0
20-801-202	English 2 * OR	3	3-0
10-801-198	Speech * OR	(3)	(3-0)
10-801-196	Oral/Interpersonal Communications* OR	(3)	(3-0)
20-810-201	Fundamentals of Speech* OR	(3)	(3-0)
20-810-205	Interpersonal & Small Group Comm *	(3)	(3-0)
Semester Total		19	

Summer Semester

20-809-233	Developmental Psychology*	3	3-0
20-809-217	Race, Class, Gender* OR	3	3-0
10-809-197	Contemporary American Society * OR	(3)	(3-0)
20-809-203	Introduction to Sociology *	(3)	(3-0)
Semester Total		6	

SECOND YEAR

First Semester

10-514-177	Assistive Technology and Adaptations	2	0-2
10-514-179	Community Practice	2	0-2
10-514-182	Physical Rehabilitation Practice	3	1-2
10-514-183	Pediatric Practice	3	1-2
10-514-184	OTA Fieldwork 1	2	1-1
	Elective*	3	3-0
Semester Total		15	

Second Semester

10-514-185	OT Practice and Management	2	1-1
10-514-186	OTA Fieldwork IIA**	5	0-20
10-514-187	OTA Fieldwork IIB**	5	0-20
Semester Total		12	

* Courses which can be taken prior to entering the program.

** Courses must be completed within 18 months after completion of all other Occupational therapy courses.

*** General Anatomy & Physiology can be satisfied by taking **both**

Anatomy & Physiology I & Anatomy & Physiology II by the semester indicated.

There are part-time or 3-year curriculum plans available upon meeting with the Health Advisor or Program Director.



Program Requirements

1) Caregiver Background Check (CBC); refer to **Health & Safety Education Policy** on the web site; 2) current CPR "Professional Level" certification is required before beginning the core courses. Students must maintain current CPR certification while attending the program; 3) Physical exam and a completed Health History Form on file prior to beginning fieldwork experiences involving direct client care; and 4) Essential functions for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program.

Note: A copy of the essential functions necessary to successfully complete the program of study is available upon request from the division office.

Program Courses

10-514-171 Introduction to Occupational Therapy 3 credits

Provides an overview of history, philosophy, ethics, and scope of occupational therapy practice. Examines legal responsibilities, professional resources, and organization. Students practice basic skills related to therapeutic relationships and determine their own suitability to a career in occupational therapy. Prerequisites: Algebra, Chemistry and Biology. Corequisites: 10-514-172, 10-514-173 and 20-806-206.

10-514-172 Medical and Psychosocial Conditions 3 credits

Introduces medical and psychosocial conditions as they relate to occupational therapy practice. Topics include etiology, symptomology, treatment and contraindications. Prerequisites: Algebra, Chemistry and Biology. Corequisites: 10-514-171, 10-514-173 and 20-806-206.

10-514-173 Activity Analysis and Applications 2 credits

Provides instruction in activity analysis with hands on experience in activities across the lifespan. Students apply the teaching/learning process and adhere to safety regulations. Prerequisites: Algebra, Chemistry and Biology. Corequisites: 10-514-171, 10-514-172 and 20-806-206.

10-514-174 OT Performance Skills 4 credits

Emphasis on the development of skills related to assessment and intervention in the areas of sensory, motor, cognition and communication. Prerequisites: 10-514-171, 10-514-172, 10-514-173 and 20-806-206. Corequisites: 10-514-175, 10-514-176 and 10-514-178.

10-514-175 Psychosocial Practice 3 credits

Examines the role of the OTA in the service delivery to individuals affected by mental health conditions. Provides opportunity for development of skills related to psychosocial assessment and interventions. Prerequisites: 10-514-171, 10-514-172, 10-514-173 and 20-806-206. Corequisites: 10-514-174, 10-514-176 and 10-514-178.

10-514-176 OT Theory and Practice 3 credits

Examines the theoretical foundations that guide OT practice. Apply group dynamics and demonstrate leadership skills. Prerequisites: 10-514-171, 10-514-172, 10-514-173 and 20-806-206. Corequisites: 10-514-174, 10-514-175 and 10-514-178.

10-514-177 Assistive Technology and Adaptations 2 credits

Explores technologies that support delivery of OT services. Emphasis on competency related to computer skills, ergonomics, adaptive devices, and environments. Prerequisites: 10-514-174, 10-514-175, 10-514-176 and 10-514-178. Corequisites: 10-514-179, 10-514-182, 10-514-183 and 10-514-184.

10-514-178 Geriatric Practice 3 credits

Examines the role of the OT in the service delivery to elders in a variety of settings. Includes analysis of the impact of age-related changes and disease processes on the function of the elderly. Prerequisites: 10-514-171, 10-514-172, 10-514-173 & 20-806-206. Corequisites: 10-514-174, 10-514-175, 10-514-176.

10-514-179 Community Practice 2 credits

Explores practice options and interventions for occupation-based community practice. Students articulate the unique role of occupational therapy within the community. Prerequisites: 10-514-174, 10-514-175, 10-514-176 and 10-514-178. Corequisites: 10-514-177, 10-514-182, 10-514-183 and 10-514-184.

10-514-182 Physical Rehabilitation Practice 3 credits

Explores interventions relative to major physical disability diagnoses seen in OT practice. Evaluation, treatment interventions, and documentation are emphasized relative to the biomechanical, neurodevelopmental and rehabilitative approaches to practice. Prerequisites: 10-514-174, 10-514-175, 10-514-176 and 10-514-178. Corequisites: 10-514-177, 10-514-179, 10-514-183 and 10-514-184.

10-514-183 Pediatric Practice 3 credits

Explores interventions relative to major pediatric diagnoses seen in OT practice. Evaluation, treatment interventions, and documentation are emphasized within the context of the child's occupations. Prerequisites: 10-514-174, 10-514-175, 10-514-176 and 10-514-178. Corequisites: 10-514-177, 10-514-179, 10-514-182 and 10-514-184.

10-514-184 OTA Fieldwork I 2 credits

Integrate classroom theory and practice into a Fieldwork Level I experience. Provides experiences to assist in the development of communication, professional and observational skills. Prerequisites: 10-514-174, 10-514-175, 10-514-176 and 10-514-178. Corequisites: 10-514-177, 10-514-179, 10-514-182 and 10-514-183.

10-514-185 OT Practice and Management 2 credits

Provides opportunities to practice clinical management skills, continuous quality improvement measurement, and administrative concepts and procedures. Students create a professional development plan. Prerequisites: 10-514-177, 10-514-179, 10-514-182, 10-514-183 and 10-514-184. Corequisites: 10-514-186 and 10-514-187.

10-514-186 OTA Fieldwork 11A 5 credits

Develop skills and behaviors necessary for entry-level occupational therapy assistant practice. Provides a different clinical practice setting than OTA Fieldwork IIB. Prerequisites: 10-514-177, 10-514-179, 10-514-182, 10-514-183 and 10-514-184. Corequisites: 10-514-185 and 10-514-187.

10-514-187 OTA Fieldwork 11B 5 credits

Develop skills and behaviors necessary for entry level occupational therapy assistant practice. Provides a different clinical practice setting than OTA Fieldwork 2A. Prerequisites: 10-514-177, 10-514-179, 10-514-182, 10-514-183 and 10-514-184.

Career Potential:

- Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA)
- Adult Day Care Coordinator
- Activities Coordinator
- Community Support Worker
- Life Skills Trainer
- Durable Medical Equipment Coordinator
- Job Coach
- Family Support Worker
- Supported Employment Specialist

With additional education and/or work experience, graduates may find employment as:

- Assisted Living Program Coordinator/ Manager
- Case Manager
- Community-Based Residential Facility Manager
- Assistive Technology Provider

More detailed and updated information on this program may be available at: madisoncollege.org. The college reserves the right to make changes in the regulations and courses announced in this publication without notice.

Madison Area Technical College provides equal opportunity in education and employment.

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