



TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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VIRGINIA BEACH CAMPUS

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Tidewater Community College. This information packet includes the admission requirements, the curriculum, and information to help you through the application process.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program begins each fall semester in August, and is a two-year Associate in Applied Science program. The prerequisite courses that you must take before you can apply are listed in the program packet. An application for the Occupational Therapy Assistant program is available in the Admissions Center at the Virginia Beach Campus, or by calling 757-822-1122. Applications will be accepted through **May 1** although it is strongly recommended that you apply earlier. Tidewater Community College applications may be obtained at any TCC campus.

Positions in this program are limited; therefore, the program faculty is not able to interview or accept into the program all applicants who meet the basic admission requirements. Those who exceed the admission requirements have a better chance of being accepted into the program. Admissions decisions will be made based on the applicant's ranking which consists of area of residence and academic record. Contact the Central Records Office at (757) 822-2150 to verify receipt of your transcripts. Those students who meet and/or exceed admission requirements will be contacted for a personal interview by the Program Director.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, PO Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. AOTA's phone number is (301) 652-2682. Graduates of the OTA Program will be able to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA).

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

Grant, loan, and scholarships information is available from the Financial Aid Office at (757) 822-7292. The number for Veterans educational benefits is (757) 822-7235.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program holds an Open House on the **third** Thursday of each month (except December) on the Virginia Beach campus. You can come to Room E-132 in the Lynnhaven Building between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to ask any questions that you may have. You may reach me for further information at (757) 822-7273.

Sincerely,

William M. Marcil, PhD, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Program Director, Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

<http://www.tcc.edu/healthprofessions>
wmarcil@tcc.edu

OTA pkt 4/09st

CHESAPEAKE

NORFOLK

PORTSMOUTH

SUFFOLK

VIRGINIA BEACH

1700 College Crescent

Virginia Beach

Virginia 23453

Telephone: 757-822-7100

www.tcc.edu

WHAT IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?

Occupational Therapy is the art and science of assisting individuals in meeting a level of independence to perform the roles necessary for productive living (occupation) within their environment. These roles are: self-care tasks, work tasks and play or leisure tasks. Occupational Therapy is based on the use of everyday activities and functional (meaningful) tasks to assist people to achieve their highest level of independence within their environment.

WHAT DOES AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST DO?

When you work in the field of Occupational Therapy, your professional skills will help individuals (of any age) whose ability to play, learn, earn a living and care for their personal needs is affected by illness or injury.

You may work in a variety of settings. These include: public schools, rehabilitation hospitals, mental health centers, general hospitals, nursing homes, and home health agencies.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A REGISTERED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST (OTR) AND A CERTIFIED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT (COTA)?

An OTR has a bachelor's degree, post baccalaureate certificate, or a master's degree from an accredited program and has passed the National Registration Exam. A COTA has either a two-year associate degree or certificate from an accredited program and has passed the National Certification Exam. All Occupational Therapy programs include a period of supervised clinical experience.

An OTR evaluates, establishes goals and a treatment plan for a patient. A COTA follows the treatment plan with a patient and may be responsible for standardized evaluations as directed by the OTR.

The COTA is responsible for reporting any changes to the OTR and documentation as needed. The frequency and type of supervision provided by the OTR depends on the experience level, and skills of the COTA, and the employment setting. The American Occupational Therapy Association establishes specific guidelines.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND PHYSICAL THERAPY?

Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy often work together as part of the health care team. Physical Therapy may be described as treatment focusing on assisting individuals to regain or improve movement and mobility. Occupational Therapy identifies functional, psychological, environmental and physical factors for treatment. The goal of both disciplines is for the individual to regain as much function and independence as possible.

WHAT TASKS COULD AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PERFORM DURING A WORK DAY?

Depending on where you work, your day as an occupational therapy assistant may include:

- * Aiding the growth and development of premature babies
- * Providing activities to build self-esteem in teens recovering from drug or alcohol abuse
- * Teaching an elderly person who is unable to bend forward how to put on his/her socks with adaptive equipment
- * Providing activities for people with mental illness to increase the appropriateness of their interactions with others
- * Providing muscle re-education so people dealing with strokes can use their arm functionally during their daily living tasks

WHAT IS THE JOB OUTLOOK IN THE FIELD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of occupational therapy assistants is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2008. Growth will result from an aging population, including the baby-boom cohort, which will probably need substantial occupational therapy services. Demand

will also result from advances in medicine that allows more people with critical problems to survive and then need rehabilitative therapy.

Employment growth would be even faster, except for Federal legislation imposing limits on reimbursement for therapy services. However, at the same time, third-party payers, concerned with rising health care costs are beginning to encourage occupational therapists to delegate more of the hands-on therapy work to occupational therapy assistants. By having assistants work more closely with clients under the guidance of a therapist, the cost of therapy should be reduced.

CAN AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT BECOME AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST?

There are several professional level education programs directed toward specific career advancement for Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants. Once again, competition may be high and previous training does not guarantee admission. Further information is available from the American Occupational Therapy Association.

WHAT STARTING SALARIES ARE OFFERED IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?

In 2005, new Occupational Therapy Assistants earned an average of \$28,000-\$31,000 in their first position. Annual salary increases in health care exceeds those in most other fields.

WHAT PRE-REQUISITES WILL I NEED WHEN APPLYING TO TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM?

- * High School or College Biology with a grade of "C" or better.
- * Three units of High School English or place into ENG 111.
- * MTH 3 or the equivalent.
- * 30 hours of observation hours in an OT setting (form due by May 1)
- * A personal interview with the Program Director is required.

NOTES:

Prospective students are hereby notified that certain medical facilities require both criminal/sex offender background checks as well as drug screens prior to being authorized to attend clinicals. The cost of the background check is the responsibility of the student.

Individuals with felonies in their background may not be eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination. Please contact the program director for further information.

Tidewater Community College maintains and promotes equal opportunity without regard to ethnicity, color, gender, age (except where gender or age is a bona fide occupational qualification), religion, handicap, national origin, or other non-merit factors. Disclosure of social security number, age, gender, and ethnicity is optional.

Adapted From:
Occupational Therapy Careers, publication of AOTA, 1994.

Reference:
Willard and Spackman's Occupational Therapy - 8th ed. / edited by Helen L. Hopkins and Helen D. Smith, 1993, J.B. Lippincott Company.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS CHECKOFF LIST

The following steps must be completed as soon as possible.

Please check each item as you complete it.

- _____ 1. Obtain an Occupational Therapy Assistant Program information packet by calling the Virginia Beach Campus Welcome and Entry Center (757-822-7172), the Counseling office (757-822-7211), or TCC Information Center (757-822-1122).
- _____ 2. Complete and return an Application for Admission to Tidewater Community College to the Virginia Beach Campus Welcome and Entry Center in the Princess Anne Building, Room A-111, 1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23453.
- _____ 3. Visit the OTA website at: <http://www.tcc.edu/healthprofessions> to learn more about the program, including frequently asked questions.
- _____ 4. Attend the Occupational Therapy Assistant Open House held on the **third** Thursday of each month (except December) from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in room E-132 of the Lynnhaven Building, Virginia Beach Campus.
- _____ 5. Take the TCC English and math placement tests if required. It is recommended you take them as soon as possible to allow adequate time to take any developmental courses required prior to taking any OTA courses. Consult the Counseling Center for information concerning your need to take these tests and for times given.
- _____ 7. Submit a completed Health Professions Program Application form for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program by May 1, to Gloria Singleton, Health Professions/Domicile, Room A-100A, Tidewater Community College, 1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23453.
- _____ 8. Have official college transcripts sent directly to Tidewater Community College, Central Records Office, PO Box 9000, Norfolk, Virginia 23509 from the appropriate institution's registrar. Student copies are not acceptable. Missing transcripts are the greatest cause of delay in the application process and are the applicant's responsibility. Any college course work transferred to TCC requires a transcript evaluation.
- _____ 9. Submit your Request for Evaluation of Previous Higher Educational Experiences on-line at <https://www.tcc.edu/secure/forms/evaluationrequest.php>, or you may also print and mail your request to Tidewater Community College, Central Records Office, PO Box 9000, Norfolk, VA 23509.

TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Virginia Beach Campus
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM
PRE-ADMISSION CLINICAL EXPERIENCE FORM

Each student must complete at least 30 hours of volunteer, paid work, or observation time in an Occupational Therapy setting before he or she will be considered for admission to the Occupational Therapy Program. This clinical experience time may be performed in one or more clinics, however, a minimum of eight (8) hours must be spent in each clinical facility. You may select any type of Occupational Therapy setting; however, **it is recommended that you visit at least two (2) different settings.**

Please remember that the Occupational Therapy Clinician's first responsibility is to the patients; therefore, there may be some delay in scheduling your observation times. You should begin contacting clinics as soon as possible to avoid problems in completing the required number of hours. Some clinics may have requirements for minimum number of volunteer hours that are greater than 20 hours. You will need to abide by the facility's policies for minimum hours, even though this program only requires 30 hours.

A copy of this form must be completed for each clinic you visit, including the signature of the Occupational Therapist or Occupational Therapy Assistant who supervised the visit(s), and submitted with your application before your application will be considered for admission and you are scheduled for a personal interview.

THIS FORM IS DUE BY May 1 WITH YOUR APPLICATION

NAME OF STUDENT (please print): _____

NAME/ADDRESS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SETTING: _____

NAME OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CLINICIAN: _____

NUMBER OF HOURS OF CLINICAL EXPERIENCE: _____

OTR/COTA COMMENTS: (optional)

Student Signature & Date

OTR/COTA Signature & Date

Name: _____ Date Entered TCC _____

Student ID _____ Counselor: _____

Occupational Therapy Assistant (128)
 Associate of Science degree: Occupational Therapy Assistant

SEMESTER 1 Fall

| Prerequisite | Course No | Course Title | Credits | When Taken | Grade |
|----------------------|-----------|--|-----------|------------|-------|
| BIO 100 | BIO 141 | Human Anatomy and Physiology ^{1*} | 4 | _____ | () |
| _____ | HLT 143 | Medical Terminology I | 3 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 100 | Introduction to Occupational Therapy | 3 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 201 | Occupational Therapy with Psychosocial Dysfunction | 3 | | |
| _____ | PSY 201 | Introduction to Psychology I | 3 | _____ | () |
| _____ | STD 101 | Orientation to Health Care | <u>1</u> | _____ | () |
| | | Semester Total | 17 | | |

SEMESTER 2 Spring

| Prerequisite | Course No | Course Title | Credits | When Taken | Grade |
|----------------------|-----------|--|-----------|------------|-------|
| Placement | _____ | College Composition I ¹ | 3 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | NAS 177 | Upper Extremity Anatomy and Kinesiology | 2 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 206 | Didactic and Group Dynamics | 3 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 225 | Neuroscience for Occupational Therapy Assistants | 4 | | |
| PSY 201 | PHY 215 | Abnormal Psychology | <u>3</u> | _____ | () |
| | | Semester Total | 15 | | |

SEMESTER 3 Summer

| Prerequisite | Course No | Course Title | Credits | When Taken | Grade |
|----------------------|-----------|--|-----------|------------|-------|
| _____ | HUM | Humanities Elective ³ | 3 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 190 | Coordinated Internship (Psychosocial Dysfunction) ² | 1 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 202 | Occupational Therapy with Physical Dysfunction | 4 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 205 | Therapeutic Media | <u>2</u> | _____ | () |
| | | Semester Total | 10 | | |

Name: _____ Date Entered TCC _____

Student ID _____ Counselor: _____

SEMESTER 4 Fall

| Prerequisite | Course No | Course Title | Credits | When Taken | Grade |
|----------------------|------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Admission to Program | OCT 190 | Coordinated Internship (Physical Dysfunction) ² | 1 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 203 | Occupational Therapy with Developmental Disabilities | 4 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 207 | Therapeutic Skills | 4 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 208 | Occupational Therapy Service Management | 3 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 210 | Assistive Technology in Occupational Therapy | 2 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 220 | Occupational Therapy for the Adult | <u>2</u> | _____ | () |
| | | Semester Total | 16 | | |

SEMESTER 5 Spring

| Prerequisite | Course No | Course Title | Credits | When Taken | Grade |
|----------------------|------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| _____ | ITE 115 | Introduction to Computer Applications and Concepts | 4 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 290 | Coordinated Internship in Occupational Therapy (Physical Dysfunction) ² | 4 | _____ | () |
| Admission to Program | OCT 290 | Coordinated Internship in Occupational Therapy (Psychosocial Dysfunction) ² | <u>4</u> | _____ | () |
| | | Semester Total | 12 | | |
| | | Program Total | 70 | | |

¹ Placement test or prerequisite required.

² Due to a lack of available sites in the region, student may have to travel to a distant site or stay temporarily near a facility.

³ Eligible courses are listed on page 64 in the 2008-2009 catalog. See you academic advisor or counselor to choose the appropriate course(s).

PREREQUISITES:

- BIO 141 Human Anatomy & Physiology I*, placement into ENG 111, and MTH 103 or equivalent for college placement..
- 30 hours of observation or work experience with an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant.
- Personal interview with Program Director is required.

NOTES:

Program requirements may change in accordance with federal, state, or industry standards. Call (757) 822-7255 for the most current information.