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 Office at the Virginia Beach Campus, or online at: https://www.tcc.edu/academics/health-professions/programs/occupational-therapy-assistant-degree located under the “Admissions Forms and Information” tab, or by calling 757-822-1122. Applications will be accepted through March 15th. Tidewater Community College applications may be obtained at any TCC campus or online at: https://www.tcc.edu/students/admissions.

Positions in this program are limited; therefore, the program faculty are 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 observation hours, interview, and academic record. Contact the Office of the College Registrar at (757) 822-1900 to verify receipt of your transcripts. Those students who meet admission requirements will be contacted for a personal interview by the Program Director. If any portion of the application, including observation hours is incomplete, you will not be contacted.

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, MD 20824-1220. AOTA's phone number is (301) 652-2682; the website is www.aota.org. 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); website: www.nbcot.org. After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA).
Note: All OTA students must complete all OCT 290 Level II Fieldwork within 18 months following completion of academic preparation. Grant, loan, and scholarship information is available from the Financial Aid Office at (855) 308-5614. The number for Center for Military and Veterans Education is (757) 822-7777 (Virginia Beach Campus).

Neither Tidewater Community College, nor the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Tidewater Community College, discriminates against anyone with a criminal record. However, it should be noted that some facilities may refuse to accept any student with a positive criminal background and it may affect your ability to become nationally certified and licensed to practice in many states, even after successfully completing the program. Additionally, although the OTA Program does not currently require drug testing, many healthcare facilities do, as a condition of internship and/or employment.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program holds an Open House on the third Thursday of each month (except December) on the Virginia Beach campus in the Regional Health Professions Center from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Applicants must attend at least one Occupational Therapy Assistant Open House within 12 months preceding submission of program application.

You may email, or call me for further information.

Sincerely,

Amanda V. Leo, MOT, OTR/L
Program Director, Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
Office: 757-822-7345
Fax: 757-822-7686
aleo@tcc.edu

https://www.tcc.edu/academics/health-professions/programs/occupational-therapy-assistant-degree
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. You may work with individuals of various cultures and at various stages of their lifespan.

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, a master’s degree, or Doctorate 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 2020. 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 2016, new Occupational Therapy Assistants earned an average of $59,010 nationally, in their first position. Annual salary increases in health care exceeds those in most other fields (https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapy-assistants-and-aides.htm#tab-5).

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

- BIO 141 Anatomy & Physiology (has a prerequisite of NAS 2). This course must be completed by the end of the fall semester preceding the March 15th application deadline.
- Placement into ENG 111.
- MTH 95.
- A minimum of 30 hours of observation hours in at least two different OT settings. Form is due by March 15 with completed packet.
- Documented attendance of at least one OTA Program Open House within 12 months preceding program application.
- An interview 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 clinical. The cost of the background check and/or drug screen 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.
ADMISSIONS PROCESS CHECKOFF LIST

The following steps must be completed as soon as possible.

Please check each item as you complete it.

_____ 1. Submit a TCC Application online at https://www.tcc.edu/admissions, or by regular mail to: Tidewater Community College, Admissions Office, Virginia Beach Campus, Building B, Room 119, 1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23453.

_____ 2. Visit the OTA website: https://www.tcc.edu/academics/health-professions/programs/occupational-therapy-assistant-degree to learn more about the program, including frequently asked questions.

_____ 3. Attend the Occupational Therapy Assistant Open House held on the third Thursday of each month (except December) from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Regional Health Professions Center, Virginia Beach Campus, within 12 months preceding submission of program application.

_____ 4. 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.


_____ 6. Have official college transcripts sent directly to Tidewater Community College, Office of the College Registrar, 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.

_____ 7. Submit your Request for Evaluation of Educational Experience Form on-line at, https://web.tcc.edu/secure/forms/evaluationrequest.php, or you may also print and mail your request to Tidewater Community College, Office of the College Registrar, PO Box 9000, Norfolk, VA 23509.

_____ 8. Submit Pre-Admission Clinical forms by March 15th along with your application to Enrollment Services/Domicile Office, Building B, Room B-105, Tidewater Community College, 1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23453.

*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, MD 20824-1220. AOTA's phone number is (301) 652-2682/website: www.aota.org*
Each student must complete a minimum of 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 must be performed in two different practice settings. However, a minimum of eight (8) hours must be spent in each clinical facility. You may select any of the types of Occupational Therapy settings; however, you must visit at least two (2) different settings. (ex: inpatient, outpatient, acute care, skilled nursing, school system, etc.).

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 30 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 March 15th WITH YOUR APPLICATION**

NAME OF STUDENT (please print): __________________________________________________________

NAME/ADDRESS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SETTING: ________________________________

NUMBER OF HOURS OF STUDENT CLINICAL OBSERVATION: __________________

OT/OTA COMMENTS: (optional)

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Student Signature & Date ________________________________________________________________

OTR/OTA Name(s)________________________________________________________

OTR/OTA Signature(s) & Date ____________________________________________________________

*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, MD 20824-1220. AOTA's phone number is (301) 652-2682/website: [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)*
### Occupational Therapy Assistant (128)

Associate of Science degree: Occupational Therapy Assistant

**PREREQUISITES:** BIO 141-Human Anatomy & Physiology. You must have completed A & P by the end of Fall semester preceding Application Deadline of March 15. Placement into MTH 95 or equivalent for college placement; A minimum of thirty (30) hours of observation with an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant; and a personal interview is required!

### PRE-ADMISSION SEMESTER

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<th>Credits</th>
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**Semester Total** .......................... 8

### Program Total ............................ 67

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1. Placement test or prerequisite required.
2. Depending on availability, student(s) may have to travel to a distant site, or to stay temporarily near a facility to ensure quality of fieldwork experience.
3. Eligible courses are listed in the 2016-2017 catalog. See your academic advisor or counselor to choose the appropriate course(s).

**NOTE:** Program requirements may change in accordance with federal, state, or industry standards.