Occupational Therapy Assistant – OTA

Degree:
A.S. – Occupational Therapy Assistant

Division of Science and Allied Health
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Course units update:

OTA 123   Fundamentals of Clinical Documentation  1 Unit
Prerequisite: See Enrollment Limitation
Enrollment Limitation: Completion of AH 106, AH 110, BIOL 100 or BIOL 430 and BIOL 431, ENGRW 300 or ENGRW 488, OTA 100, PSYC 300 or PSYC 480, and PSYC 370 or FCS 324 with grades of “C” or better and cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher in these courses. Completion of the Sacramento City College Reading Competency graduation requirement. BIOL 100 or BIOL 430 and BIOL 431 and PSYC 300 or equivalent courses must have been completed within the last 10 years at the time of application to the program. This course may be taken only by students officially accepted into the OTA program.
Hours: 18 hours LEC
In this course, the Occupational Therapy Assistant student will develop basic skills in clinical documentation. Students will be introduced to various documentation formats as required by different treatment settings and reimbursement systems. Students will be required to distinguish between subjective and objective reports and development of the clinical opinion and a plan based on these reports. The “Occupational Therapy Practice Framework” will be used as a tool critical to developing fluency in documentation terminology.

New course:

OTA 124   Introduction to Electronic Documentation for the OTA  .5 Unit
Prerequisite: OTA 120 and OTA 123 with grades of “C” or better
Hours: 9 hours LEC
The use of electronic medical record (EMR) is an expected skill in health care practice as service providers establish compliance with federal mandates for medical information management. This course will provide the occupational therapy assistant student with an introduction to EMR formats, methods, reimbursement requirements, and legal issues. This course prepares the student for learning the basics of the EMR in preparation for Level II fieldwork.

Occupational Therapy Assistant, Associate in Science, Update:

Program Information
An Associate in Science Degree can be obtained by completion of the required Occupational Therapy Assistant program requirements. The degree includes Occupational Therapy Assistant courses (43.5 units), Allied Health courses (5 units), and specific general education and science courses required for the program (18.5-25.5 units). Students must also take additional courses to meet graduation requirements of the college. Courses are scheduled sequentially for four semesters and two summer sessions. The shortest time to complete all requirements of the program would be two years after admission to the program. The Allied Health and OTA courses are offered Monday through Thursday in the evening and on Saturdays, with the exception of clinical fieldwork, which is scheduled during weekday business hours.

Supervised clinical fieldwork experiences are integrated throughout the program. Students must complete fieldwork as a corequisite to academic courses. The introduction to clinical practice courses, OTA 122, 132, and 142, require 40 hours of fieldwork (with 14 hours on-campus seminar for each class); OTA 152 requires 20 hours of fieldwork (with 7 hours on-campus seminar). There are two required full-time fieldwork experiences that take place during the student's final two semesters, requiring completion of 320 hours in each setting, to be completed during regular business hours, Monday-Friday. These clinical rotations each have a separate and required on-campus seminar course, each for 27 hours. (Note: Due to site availability and unforeseen circumstances, not all sites may be assigned on the first day of the semester. All efforts are made to place students in fieldwork sites as soon as sites are available.) Fieldwork requires completion of a physical examination, immunizations, a TB test, current CPR certification for health personnel (level C), background check, fingerprinting, and drug screening. Fieldwork sites may have additional requirements specific to their site.

In addition to college enrollment fees, other estimated costs include: books and supplies ($850); lab fees ($100); background check and drug screening ($100); physical examinations and immunizations ($175); malpractice insurance ($30); fingerprinting ($150); and fees and related requirements for certification test and licensure ($850). Some clinical sites require that students have health and/or automobile insurance as a condition of acceptance for fieldwork placement. Students must also plan for travel costs to and from the clinical facilities, many of which are outside the Sacramento area. While all efforts are made to place students in locations near their residence, students need to be prepared to travel long distances to complete their fieldwork experiences. Some students may need to arrange for housing during the full-time fieldwork. All clinical fieldwork must be completed in California. The costs listed above are based on current fees and are subject to change without notice.

Students in the OTA Program will be required to practice skills on each other in a laboratory setting with instructor supervision. Courses in the OTA Program may include discussion of issues such as race, religion, sexuality, disability, and gender as related to the course content.

Accreditation/Certification: 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, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE’s phone number, via AOTA, is (301) 652-AOTA, and their web address is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the 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), located at 12 South Summit Avenue, Suite 100, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-4150. NBCOT’s phone number is (301) 990-7979, and their web address is www.nbcot.org. After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). Most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Upon successful completion of the NBCOT examination, graduates intending to practice in California are required to be licensed by the California Board of Occupational Therapy (CBOT), located at 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2050, Sacramento, CA 95815. Additional information about these practice regulations can be found at www.bot.ca.gov or by contacting the Board at (916) 263-2294.
Additional Information

About the Program: Informational meetings are held several times each semester and provide prospective students with information on program prerequisites, enrollment process, and other facts about the program. All interested students are strongly encouraged to attend. For dates, times, and other information, visit the program website at [http://www.scc.losrios.edu/ota/](http://www.scc.losrios.edu/ota/).

About Fieldwork Requirements: Students must be prepared to attend clinical fieldwork activities during weekday and daytime hours. Evening and weekend fieldwork is not available. Students are responsible for securing transportation to assigned clinical sites to complete the fieldwork component of the program. While all efforts are made to place students in geographically convenient areas, students need to be prepared to travel long distances to complete their fieldwork experiences in some settings. Due to the nature of clinical fieldwork placement, requests for placement on public transit lines are not available. The last two semesters of the program require full-time clinical fieldwork during which students are unable to work in outside employment. Part-time placement is not available except for documented medical accommodations. Students should develop a financial plan that enables them to complete this required component of the program, which can take several months to complete depending on individual circumstances.

About Recency of OTA Courses: All courses with an OTA designator (except OTA 100) must have been completed within the last five years at the time of petitioning for graduation. This time frame is consistent with recency requirements for completion of the national exam and for licensure to practice in California. Students who do not meet this qualification must meet with the Program Coordinator and the Division Dean to review individual circumstances.

Career Opportunities

This program prepares the student for employment as an occupational therapy assistant. Occupational therapy assistants work with people of all ages who, because of physical, cognitive, developmental, social, or emotional problems, need specialized assistance in order to lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives. They may work in a wide variety of settings including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, school systems, psychiatric hospitals, private practice outpatient clinics, and emerging practice areas.

Enrollment Eligibility

To be eligible for enrollment in the program, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Completion of AH 106, AH 110, BIOL 100 or BIOL 430 and BIOL 431, ENGRWR 300 or ENGRWR 488, OTA 100, PSYC 300 or PSYC 480, and PSYC 370 or FCS 324 with grades of "C" or better and cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher in these courses. Completion of the Sacramento City College Reading Competency graduation requirement. BIOL 100 or BIOL 430 and BIOL 431 and PSYC 300 or equivalent courses must have been completed within the last 10 years at the time of application to the program.
- Courses passed with a grade "P" or "CR" will be calculated into the student's GPA as a "C" grade.

Enrollment Process

Eligible students are selected for the program according to the following steps:

- Students may apply if program prerequisites are in-progress at the time of application. Proof of enrollment is required. Wait-listed courses are not eligible for consideration.
- Applications to the program must be submitted by the posted due date, which can be found on the program website at [http://www.scc.losrios.edu/ota/](http://www.scc.losrios.edu/ota/). All applications are accepted once a year and are submitted only online. Required documentation includes: unofficial transcript(s), including all schools in the Los Rios Community College District; proof of completion of the Sacramento City College Reading Competency graduation requirement; and proof of enrollment for any in-progress program prerequisites.

All documents must be in PDF format. Students must submit a complete and qualified application each enrollment period in order to be considered.

- When the number of applicants exceeds the available seats, a random selection process is used to determine the roster of the incoming class. Students who have submitted complete and qualified applications in sequential years will receive entries in the random selection equal to the number of years applied. Failure to meet any of these requirements results in the application being categorized as a new application.
- Those students selected to enter the program will be expected to fulfill additional requirements to maintain their eligibility. Examples of these requirements include: completion of a background check, drug screen, physical examination, immunizations, CPR and HIPAA training, and purchase of malpractice insurance and medical document manager. This list is not fully inclusive and is subject to change without notice.
- Transfer students: Students from other accredited OT or OTA programs may apply to transfer to the Sacramento City College OTA Program. Students must first apply to the program and be accepted before transfer credits are reviewed. Students must submit the following in order to complete a transfer credit review: transcripts, course syllabi, and a letter of introduction from the director of the program where the student was previously enrolled. Any OT/OTA coursework older than five years will not be considered for transfer. The review of transfer credit requires five to six weeks and cannot be completed if the materials provided are incomplete. A review of the proposed transfer courses does not imply or guarantee acceptance of the coursework. Incoming transfer students are subject to skills and theory testing to confirm current competency prior to final course placement. Students may not transfer to take only the Level II fieldwork courses.
- A felony conviction may affect eligibility to sit for the national exam and/or complete the licensure process in California. For more information about an "Early Determination" review for the national exam, contact the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Their web address is [www.nbcot.org](http://www.nbcot.org). For more information about California licensure, contact the California Board of Occupational Therapy (CBOT). Their web address is [www.bot.ca.gov](http://www.bot.ca.gov).

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- recognize the theoretical frames of reference from which the practice of occupational therapy is derived.
- demonstrate fundamental skills in the use of evidence to guide practice and participate in research activities as directed.
- describe occupational therapy programs and practice as currently organized in health care delivery systems.
- describe emerging and non-traditional practice areas and define the role of the OTA in these settings.
- analyze tasks and environments to assess their therapeutic qualities and constraints.
- perform evaluation procedures selected according to OTA practice guidelines.
- assist in developing occupational therapy intervention plans.
- implement an intervention plan to engage clients in purposeful activities related to occupation.
- document factual client data for oral and written communication, using either traditional methods or new technologies.
- maintain records and reports including counter-signatures, as guided by regulations for confidentiality, reimbursement, and quality assurance.
- revise and implement OT intervention plans in ongoing collaboration with the supervising OT.
- assess factors that warrant change or discontinuation of an established intervention plan, in collaboration with the supervising OT.
- manage supplies and equipment necessary for OT intervention, demonstrating safety and appropriate infection control procedures.
- access, reference, and abide by all state regulations.
• locate, reference, and abide by all federal regulations, including HIPAA and ADA guidelines.
• apply the OT Code of Ethics as an element of all professional interactions and service provision.
• adhere to all OT department and agency policies and procedures.
• explain the definition and role of occupational therapy to consumers and other health practitioners.
• discuss how socio-cultural diversity may influence the therapeutic process.
• demonstrate actions that reflect non-judgmental attitudes and values toward patient/clients, staff, and family members in professional situations.
• exhibit behaviors that respect the client’s basic rights to quality service with minimum risk of further injury or insult.
• demonstrate an attitude of professional responsibility for self-directed learning as a life-long process for acquiring new knowledge, abilities, attitudes, and refining clinical reasoning.

Required program
Courses Required for Program Application in Addition to Completion of LRCCD Reading Competency:

AH 106 Communication for Allied Health Careers .................. 2
AH 1110 Medical Language for Health-Care Providers ................. 3
BIOL 100 Introduction to Concepts of Human Anatomy and Physiology (3) .............................................................................................................. 3 - 10
  or BIOL 430 Anatomy and Physiology (5)
  and BIOL 431 Anatomy and Physiology (5)
ENGWR 300 College Composition (3) ........................................ 3 - 4
  or ENGWR 488 Honors College Composition and Research (4)
OTA 100 Introduction to Occupational Therapy ..................... 1
PSYC 300 General Principles (3) ..................................................... 32
  or PSYC 480 Honors General Principles (3)
PSYC 370 Human Development: A Life Span (3) ....................... 3
  or FCS 324 Human Development: A Life Span (3)

Semester 1 (Spring):
OTA 123 Fundamentals of Clinical Documentation ................ 1
OTA 131 Occupational Therapy Theory and Process in Psychosocial Dysfunction ................................................................. 5
OTA 132 Introduction to Clinical Practice in Psychosocial Dysfunction (1), ................................................................. 1
  or OTA 122 Introduction to Clinical Practice in Non-Traditional Settings (1)
OTA 150 Occupational Therapy Process and Practice in Developmental Disabilities and Pediatric Conditions .................... 2.5
OTA 152 Introduction to Clinical Practice in Pediatric Conditions .......................................................... 0.5

Semester 2 (Summer):
OTA 110 Functional Biomechanics for the OTA ..................... 3
OTA 111 Functional Biomechanics Lab for the OTA .................. 1

Semester 3 (Fall):
OTA 140 Theoretical Foundations of Physical Dysfunction .......... 3
OTA 141 Occupational Therapy Process in Physical Dysfunction ..... 4
OTA 142 Introduction to Clinical Practice in Physical Dysfunction ..... 1

General Education Required to Advance to Semester 4:
AH 301 Health Care in a Multicultural Society (3) .................... 3
  or SOC 300 Introductory Sociology (3)
  or SOC 480 Introductory Sociology - Honors (3)
  or ANTH 310 Cultural Anthropology (3)
  or ANTH 481 Honors Cultural Anthropology (3)
LIBR 307 Medical Information Resources .............................. 1
NUTRI 300 Nutrition (3) ......................................................... 3
  or NUTRI 480 Nutrition Honors (3)
  or HEED 300 Health Science (3)

Semester 4 (Spring):
OTA 120 Fundamentals of Occupational Therapy Assistant Practice .......................................................... 2.5
OTA 124 Introduction to Electronic Documentation for the OTA ....... 0.5
OTA 160 Field Work Level II for the Occupational Therapy Assistant .......................................................... 6
OTA 162 Practice Skills for First Rotation OTA Level II Field Work .......................................................... 0.5

Semester 5 (Summer):
OTA 121 Contemporary Models of Practice in Occupational Therapy .......................................................... 1

Semester 6 (Fall):
OTA 161 Field Work Level II for the Occupational Therapy Assistant .......................................................... 6
OTA 163 Practice Skills for Second Rotation OTA Level II Field Work .......................................................... 0.5

Total Required Units 64 - 72

1 Ten year recency required.
2 Ten year recency required.

Suggested Electives
AH 301, DEAF 353, PNJABI 401, RUSS 101, SPAN 401, TGLG 401

Associate in Science Degree
The Occupational Therapy Assistant Associate in Science (A.S.) degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See SCC graduation requirements.