

## Division of Applied Science & Technology

### Associate of Applied Science Degree – Occupational Therapy Assistant

#### Program Description

Graduates of the program are prepared to qualify as contributing members of the health care team who will care for patients under the supervision of a Registered Occupational Therapist. The goals of the occupational therapy team are to develop, restore, or maintain adaptive skills in individuals whose abilities to cope with daily living are threatened or impaired by disease, injury, developmental disability, or social disadvantage. This program is offered in partnership with Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) and degrees will be conferred from SWCC.

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, P. O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. AOTA's phone number is (301) 652-2582. 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). 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.

#### Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities include positions in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, clinics, day care centers, long-term care facilities, schools, sheltered workshops, homebound programs and community agencies.

#### Special Considerations

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the both SVCC and MECC, consideration for a position in this program requires a high school diploma or GED; the completion of the placement tests; two units of

#### PROGRAM OF STUDY

<b>FIRST YEAR FALL</b>				
<i>Course #</i>		<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit</i>	<i>Progress</i>
BIO	141	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4	
ENG	111	College Composition	3	
HLT	143	Medical Terminology <sup>3</sup>	3	
OCT	100	Intro to OT	3	
PSY	230	Development Psychology <sup>1</sup>	3	
SDV	100, 104 or 108	College Success Skills or Study Skills or College Survival Skills	1	
<b>FIRST YEAR SPRING</b>				
BIO	142	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4	
OCT	195	Topics in OT for Physical Dysfunction	2	
OCT	201	OT with Psychosocial Dysfunction	3	
OCT	205	Therapeutic Media	2	
NAS	195	Kinesiology	1	
ITE	119	Information Literacy	3	
		Humanities/Fine Arts Elective <sup>2</sup>	3	
<b>SECOND YEAR SUMMER</b>				
OCT	190	Coordinated Practice in OT I - Level I Fieldwork	1	
OCT	207	Therapeutic Skills	3	
OCT	220	OT for the Adult	2	
<b>SECOND YEAR FALL</b>				
OCT	190	Coordinated Practice in OT II - Level I Fieldwork	1	
OCT	202	OT with Physical Disabilities	4	
OCT	203	OT with Developmental Disabilities	4	
OCT	208	OT Service Management & Delivery	3	
OCT	210	Assistive Tech. in OT	2	

mathematics (Algebra I plus Algebra II and/or Geometry), one unit of Biology with a laboratory, and one unit of Chemistry with a laboratory. Additional classes that are recommended include: Abnormal Psychology and Ethics for Health Care Personnel. Grades in these courses must reflect a minimum of "C." MTH 126 may substitute for the second math requirement. Eight (8) hours of observation in an occupational therapy setting should be documented by the OT personnel denoting and date (') and time(s).

All high school courses and/or college work must reflect an overall grade average of "C" (2.0 GPA) or higher. Satisfactory performance on the placement testing program is required. All pre-requisite courses, including any prescribed developmental studies courses, must be successfully completed before the January 15 application deadline. Students planning to transfer to senior institutions should inform their advisors and should consider coursework that can be used for transfer.

Because entry into this program is competitive, students must complete the application process with the Admissions Office at SWVCC by January 15. Classes begin the fall semester of each academic year. Students accepted into the program are required to submit a certificate reflecting a successful physical examination, signed by a licensed physician. The physical examination must be completed after receiving notification of acceptance to the program and prior to beginning classes. Immunizations must be current and include Hepatitis B and MMR. Proof of Tuberculin skin test (PPD) and CPR certification must be shown on admission to the program and kept current throughout the program. Students are responsible for any additional costs related to physicals, vaccinations, uniforms, insurance, background checks, drug testing, clinical travel, or other needed supplies or requirements.

### Program Requirements

The student is required to complete a sequence of courses and learning experiences. Students must achieve a grade of "C" or better in all program courses. Any student receiving a grade of "D" in any of the program courses will be placed on Program Probation. That course shall be remediated once, with a written contract containing the requirements of the remediation. Please note: Students may be required to wait at least one academic year before they will have an opportunity to remediate the course. Students on program probation status will only be allowed to remediate the course if there is an open position in the class. Dismissal from the program shall result if: 1) the student does not meet the requirements of the probationary contract; 2) the student receives a final grade of less than "C" in any program courses either during or after the period of the Program Probation; or 3) a final grade of "F" in any coursework after admittance to the program will result in dismissal from the program. Remediated courses must be completed with a final grade of "C" or better.

### Clinical and Behavioral Requirements

Selected and supervised learning experiences are required by this program and will be accomplished at selected health care facilities. Because there are limited clinical sites within the area, students may be required to travel to other areas to complete clinical training. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation, uniforms, and living expenses during fieldwork experiences. In the fifth semester, there will be 40 hours per week of clinical time (Level II fieldwork) in two eight week segments, so students must plan their schedules accordingly. Program faculty will observe and evaluate the student's suitability for the profession. If in the judgment of the Program Faculty the student does not exhibit those behaviors required of the occupational therapy assistant, the student may be asked to withdraw from the program. All OTA students must complete Level II Fieldwork

PROGRAM OF STUDY CONTINUED				
SECOND YEAR SPRING				
Course #		Course Title	Credit	Progress
OCT	290	Coordinated Practice in OT III - Level II Fieldwork	6	
OCT	290	Coordinated Practice in OT IV - Level II Fieldwork	6	
OCT	298	Seminar and Project in OTA	1	
<b>Total Minimum Credits for Degree</b>			<b>68</b>	

<sup>1</sup>PSY 231-232, Lifespan Human Growth and Development I & II (both necessary) may be substituted for PSY 230. <sup>2</sup>Courses may be chosen from the Transfer Humanities Electives. <sup>3</sup>HIM 111 may substitute for HLT 143.

within 18 months following completion of academic preparation. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

#### **Criminal Background Checks/Drug Testing**

Background checks for criminal history and sex offender crimes against minors are required for entrance into some clinical agencies. Students with convictions may be prohibited from clinical practice and may not complete the program. Clinical agencies may require drug testing prior to placement of students for clinical rotations. Students with positive drug test results may be prohibited from clinical practice and may not complete the program. Cost for criminal background checks and drug testing will be the responsibility of the student.

#### **For Further Information Contact:**

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