



Occupational Therapy Assistant

in cooperation with the School of Health Related Professions at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Program OCC.THPY.AS
CIP 519999

Associate in Science Degree

The Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program prepares students for a profession serving people of all ages who experience illness, disease, disability, and challenging life circumstances to adapt by participating in meaningful occupations. The program cultivates OTAs as professionals who will contribute to the health and well-being of individuals, groups, and populations in New Jersey and beyond, practicing as dynamic and inter-professional team members within health care, educational, and other community settings.

Students may complete the liberal arts component of the program at Mercer County Community College and take the specialized OTA courses at Rutgers. Admission to the Rutgers program is competitive and not guaranteed. In addition to the pre-professional coursework at MCCC, a number of strict Rutgers entry requirements must be satisfied. Specific admission criteria are outlined in the Rutgers School of Health Related Professions catalog. In addition, Rutgers maintains student policies related to the OTA program. Contact the MCCC OTA program coordinator or division dean for details.

Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to sit for the national certifying examination offered by the National Board for Certifying Occupational Therapy. Those who pass the test are awarded the title Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA).

The OTA program at Rutgers is accredited by ACOTE (www.acoteonline.org) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Have acquired an educational foundation in the liberal arts and sciences, including a focus on issues related to diversity;
- Be educated as a generalist with a broad exposure to the delivery models and systems used in settings where occupational therapy is currently practiced and where it is emerging as a service;
- Have achieved entry-level competency through a combination of academic and fieldwork education;
- Be prepared to articulate and apply occupational therapy principles and intervention tools to achieve expected outcomes as related to the occupation;
- Be prepared to be a lifelong learner and keep current with best practices;
- Uphold the ethical standards, values, and attitudes of the occupational therapy profession;
- Understand the distinct roles and responsibilities of the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant in the supervisory process;
- Be prepared to advocate as a professional for occupational therapy services offered and for the recipients of those services.

Curriculum

Mercer County Community College Courses

Code	Course (lecture/lab hours)	Credits
BIO 103	Anatomy and Physiology I (3/3)	4
ENG 101	English Composition I (3/0)	3
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology (3/0)	3
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology (3/0)	3
— —	Diversity and Global Perspective elective	3
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BIO 104	Anatomy and Physiology II (3/3)	4
ENG 102	English Composition II (3/0)	3
MAT 200	Statistics for Social and Health Sciences I (3/0)	3
PHI 204	Ethics (3/0)	3
PSY 207	Developmental Psychology: Across the Life Span (3/0)	3
Credits Subtotal:		32

Rutgers University Courses

Code	Course	Credits
OCTH 1010	Occupational Therapy Foundations for the OTA	3
OCTH 1019	Level I Fieldwork A: Integration and Practice Applications	1
OCTH 1020	Occupational Performance and Participation: Skills and Client Factors	3
OCTH 1031	Conditions Impacting Occupation, Participation, and Health I: Adult/Older Adult	2
PRST 1102	Communication Techniques	3
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OCTH 1029	Level I Fieldwork B: Integration and Practice Applications	1
OCTH 1040	Occupational Performance and Participation: Therapeutic Applications	3
OCTH 1051	Principles and Practices I: Wellness and Mental Health	2
OCTH 1052	Principles and Practices II: Rehabilitation, Disability, Aging, and Participation	3
PRST 1103	Group Dynamics	3
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OCTH 1032	Conditions Impacting Occupation, Participation, and Health II: Child/Adolescent	2
OCTH 1039	Level I Fieldwork C: Integration and Practice Applications	1
OCTH 1053	Principles and Practices III: Children and Youth	2
OCTH 1071	Professional Seminar I	1
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OCTH 2019	OTA Practice, Fieldwork II: Adult/Older Adult	5
OCTH 2029	OTA Practice, Fieldwork II: Child/Adolescent	5
OCTH 2072	Professional Seminar II	2
Credits Subtotal:		42

Rutgers courses are offered starting in the Fall of the second year through Fall of the third year. A minimum of 15 credits must be completed through Mercer County Community College to satisfy residency requirements.

Total Credits: 74