



# **ONLINE ORIENTATION**

**Occupational Therapy Assistant  
Program**

# WHAT IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?

Occupational therapy is a health profession that provides Occupational Therapy services to clients across the life span.

Occupational therapists work with people of all ages who may have developmental, physical, or mental health impairments.

Occupational therapists use the "**occupations**" of self-care, work, play, and leisure activities to increase independence, enhance development, and prevent disability.

# GENERAL PROGRAM FACTS

- The program admits 25 students each May.
- Students who complete the program will graduate in May of the following year.
- Students must successfully complete all 3 semesters of OTA program coursework in order to be recommended for the national exam.
- Labs and most lectures are held face-to-face on Thornley Campus. Currently, three courses in the program are offered in a hybrid format (a combination of face-to-face and online learning).
- OTAs work under the supervision of an OTR.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national mean salary for OTAs is \$63,310 - \$65,760 (this varies greatly depending on the state and setting).



# IMPORTANT INFO:

Managing work, school and personal life can be challenging due to program demands.

Personal transportation is **required** for community and fieldwork experiences.

Students should anticipate completing fieldwork experiences both **locally and out of the area**.


Students who are assigned fieldwork experiences out of the area are responsible for making their own living arrangement, and any additional costs incurred.

Students will engage in community and fieldwork experiences with clients with developmental delay, mental health dysfunction, disease and/or injuries.


Students may be exposed to blood and body fluids as well as communicable diseases.

# IMPORTANT INFO:

OTA students can expect to address issues that deal with bathing, dressing, toileting, and feeding, as well as higher level daily life skills.



A criminal background check and drug screening is required for all OTA students. This process is completed once the student begins the program. Results of the background check and/or drug screen, could affect a student's ability to complete fieldwork rotations, and/or their ability to become credentialed.



While it is not a requirement of the OTA program to be vaccinated for COVID 19, it may be a requirement of many of our clinical facilities where you will be assigned for fieldwork rotations. Seasonal Flu vaccination is a requirement unless the student has a documented allergy.

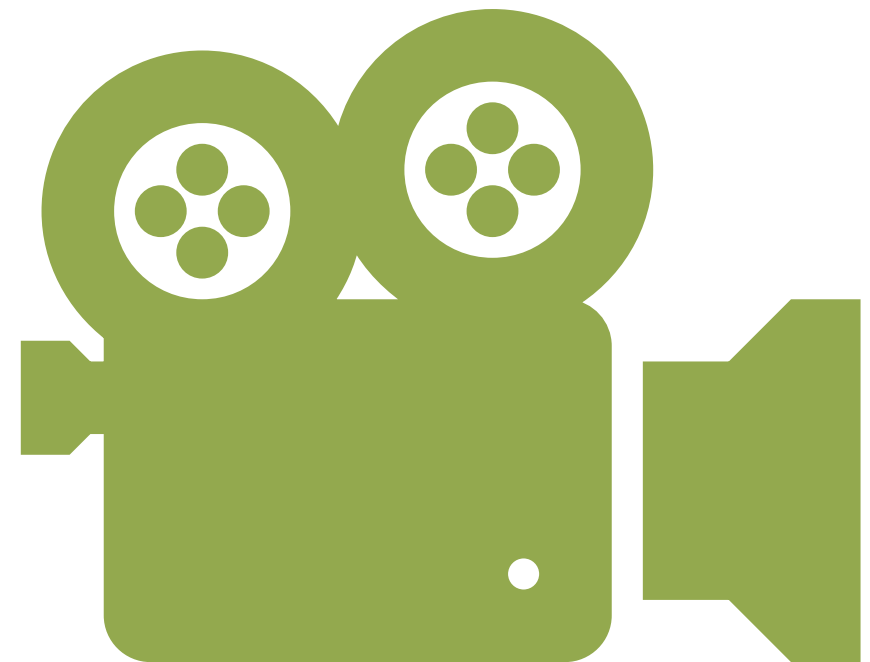
# STEPS TO TAKE

- Apply to the college.
- Request that ALL official college transcripts be sent to admissions.
- After you receive your acceptance to the college you may apply to the OTA program. This may be done **ANY** time **after** all official college transcripts have been received **and you** have been accepted to the college.
- View the online Observation Video and successfully complete the associated quiz.
- Complete all pre-req coursework with a C or better. (Lab science courses and AHS 104 must have been taken within 5 years of admission into the program).
- Achieve a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA in the two required science (BIO 210 and BIO 211) and math (MAT 120) courses.
- Successfully complete the on-line information quiz with a score of 100.**
- Ensure that you are able to carry out the essential functions required.
- Fill out the completion form when ALL of the admissions requirements are met. A link for this form can be found on the OTA webpage



# OBSERVING OT

View the Observation Video located on the Occupational Therapy Assistant D2L shell in step 2 to ensure that you have a more in-depth understanding of the discipline of Occupational Therapy. Complete the observation video quiz and achieve a score of 100%. Access to this D2L shell is granted upon acceptance into the program.



# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PRE-REQS ARE COMPLETE?

- When you have met all of the admissions criteria and SUBMITTED YOUR STATEMENT OF COMPLETION your name will be added to the OTA list for the next available class, and you will be directly contacted by the admissions coordinator.
- Students **MUST** notify the admissions coordinator of their intent to accept or decline the seat being offered. Lack of notification will result in the student being removed from the list.
- Be sure to keep your address, phone number, and email account current with the college. Current contact information is required in order to notify you of seat availability, and the scheduled orientation date.
- Prior to beginning the program you will receive notification indicating the date, time and place for our mandatory orientation. This orientation session is completed right before the student enters the program. This typically occurs in March or April **of the year you are scheduled to begin the program**. Please do not contact us regarding the meeting. We will contact you when a date has been determined.



# ONCE THE PROGRAM BEGINS...

- The program is full-time. Learning experiences are provided on and off campus. Typically classroom hours are during the day from 8-4, however, some community experiences or an occasional guest lecture may occur during evening hours.
- Students can expect to engage in learning experiences that require public speaking, collaboration with other disciplines, and educating members of the community.
- OTA students are required to successfully demonstrate skill competencies during lab practicals each semester.**
- Students are assessed for professional development each semester.
- Students must successfully complete 4 fieldwork experiences. One, Level I experience is one week in length and occurs during the summer semester. The 2nd level I experience is the equivalent of 36-40 hours and occurs over the course of the fall semester. Two, Level II experiences occur in the spring semester and are eight weeks in length per experience. **Students may be sent to a fieldwork site that is out of the Charleston area. This may include sites that are in or out of state. While we utilize as many local sites as possible, we are unable to make special accommodations, or meet student requests, to complete all fieldwork experiences locally. Students adhere to the schedule (days and times) of their onsite fieldwork supervisor during all fieldwork rotations.**

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- Students may incur additional expenses for fieldwork such as uniforms, additional immunizations, physical examination, etc.
- Prior to the first day of class, students will be required to provide a completed student health record to include proof of immunizations or immunity (through titers) for tetanus, measles/mumps/rubella, varicella, hepatitis B, meningitis (a waiver may be allowed), and a two-step TB skin test. Students will also be required to provide proof of BLS Healthcare Provider CPR certification, major medical coverage, professional liability insurance, and membership in the state and national occupational therapy associations.
- Students are required to engage in program learning activities using varied technologies. Exams are taken electronically.
- A personal laptop and internet access are required throughout the program. Chromebooks are not compatible with our online testing and may not be utilized.
- Please note that Apps are used to enhance learning throughout the program. Smartphones are required for access to the apps.

# PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

**Program Coordinator:**

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