



Occupational Therapy Assistant

Program: Occupational Therapy

Program Code:

OA

Academic Area:

Health Sciences

Type:

Associate in Science

Campus:

New Bedford

CIP Code:

51.0803

Program Goal Statement

The mission of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program is to provide an accessible, quality educational program to individuals in preparation for employment as Occupational Therapy Assistants. The program prepares generalist, entry-level occupational therapy assistants to practice under the supervision of registered occupational therapists in a variety of healthcare, home, school, workplace, community and other settings. The program prepares graduates to help people of all ages with physical, cognitive, psychosocial, sensory, emotional and other challenges regain, develop, or master everyday skills in order to engage in meaningful occupations and live independent, productive, and satisfying lives. The program advances the mission of the College by providing a career-ready education delivered in a learner-centered, supportive community that values professionalism, evidence-based practice and lifelong learning, respects diversity and prepares well-rounded learners for employment.

Program Information

- Hybrid program (Classes are in-person and/or online, all labs and fieldwork are in person.) Classes and labs can be completed in two-three days/semester. Fieldwork varies each semester - typically 3-6 visits/semester, day of the week varies. The 4th semester consists of 16 weeks of full-time fieldwork, typically M-F. The program is based on the New Bedford campus. An additional 20 hours/week are required to complete readings, lab preparation and assignments. Students typically need to decrease work obligations in order to be successful in the program.
- Students develop academic knowledge, clinical skills, and professional behavior through classroom, online, lab, fieldwork, and off-site learning experiences.
- Computer technology is integrated throughout the OTA program. All OTA courses use online course spaces which requires that all OTA students have access to a computer that is internet enabled and have information and computer literacy skills that include using web browsers and other web applications to locate and appropriately use information provided in an online format. Students should also have the ability to create, edit, save and retrieve documents, spreadsheets, and presentations.
- All applicants should review detailed information about technical requirements, time expectations, accessibility and Online Learning, and how to succeed in an online classroom: [Online Learning at Bristol](#)



- Prior to applying, all students should assess their ability to succeed in the online environment by completing the eLearning sample course by taking the "Is Online Learning for me?" self assessment.
- Non OTA majors may register for OTA 111 Introduction to Occupational Therapy with permission of the program director.
- Once admitted to the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program students must complete all OTA courses in the required sequence.
- Students considering transfer to an Occupational Therapy program are encouraged to choose HST 111 or HST 112 as electives.
- Abnormal Psychology (PSY 255), and Child Development (PSY 252) are not required, but are recommended. Both courses are required for transfer to become a Registered Occupational Therapist. World language and American Sign Language is a beneficial skill in many practice settings.
- Many General Education courses are available nights, weekends, online and at several of our campuses.

After Bristol

- Bristol graduates are recognized as well-prepared entry-level practitioners by the clinical community and employers.
- Graduates have taken positions as Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants in area schools, acute care, rehabilitation and psychiatric hospitals, residential and day habilitation programs, nursing homes, sub-acute rehabilitation, home care and outpatient settings.
- Graduates may transfer to Occupational Therapy programs at senior institutions. Specific prerequisite requirements and transfer credit are determined by the transfer institution.

Infused General Education Competencies

Ethical Dimensions, Multicultural Perspective, Technical Literacy, First Year Experience

Recommendations for Success

Students are advised to complete most general and elective courses prior to beginning OTA program courses. OTA classes, labs, and clinical fieldwork require attendance two to three days per week in Semester 1, 2, and 3 and 40+ hours/week in Semester 4. Fieldwork placements may include days, evenings and/or weekends. Students typically need to decrease work obligations as program requirements increase.



Program Outcomes 2020-2022

The total number of graduates from the Bristol Community College Occupational Therapy Assistant Program during the three-year period 2020 - 2022 was 51, with an overall graduation rate of 81%. Program results (certification exam pass rates) from the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT®) can be found online at <https://www.nbcot.org/en/educators/home#schoolperformance>.

Graduation Year	Students Entering	Students Graduating	Graduation Rate
2020	21 (F 2018)	17	81%
2021	28 (F 2019)	23	82%
2022	14 (Fall 2020)	11	79%
Total 3-year	63	51	81%

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM

Admission Requirements

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program is a competitive-entry program with selective admission requirements. A limited number of students are admitted. Meeting minimal requirements places the applicant in the selection pool but does not guarantee admission. In order to be considered minimally qualified, applicants must have submitted their application, all supporting documents and have fulfilled the following criteria by the priority application deadline of February 1:

Completed the following pre-admission courses with a B- or higher:

- BIO 233 (Anatomy and Physiology I) or BIO 234 (Anatomy and Physiology II) or equivalent
- COM 104 (Fundamentals of Public Speaking) or equivalent
- ENG 101 (Composition I: College Writing)
- ENG 102 (Composition II: Writing About Literature)
- HLT 101 (Medical Language Module 1) or HLT 102 (Medical Language Module II) or equivalent
- MTH 119 (Fundamentals of Statistics)
- PSY 101 (General Psychology) or equivalent
- Applicants must have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher in the aforementioned pre-admission courses. A grade of B- in all pre-requisite courses results in a 2.7 GPA which makes the applicant ineligible for application to the program. It is suggested that grades higher than a B- be earned to be a competitive candidate.
- Applicants are invited to learn more about the career by exploring the American Occupational Therapy Association's website and observing the following videos about occupational therapy practice:
 - He can be a dad in every way he wants to be
 - Together we set a goal to dance
 - He is thriving
 - NBC's The Today Show Shares Family Story



- What is Occupational Therapy? Three Wounded Warriors Explain
- Students are required to attend one mandatory health science information session during the year prior to anticipated admission (preregister well in advance as seating is limited). <http://www.bristolcc.edu/getstartedatbristol/admissions/healthsciencesadmissionrequirements/healthscienceinformationsessions/>
- Students must complete all science courses required for admission within 5 years of priority application deadline to the program.
- Transcripts from attendance at other regionally accredited college/universities may be required with submission of your admissions application. Please refer to the Admissions page within this catalog for further detail <https://catalog.bristolcc.edu/admissions> Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your application not being reviewed for the program to which you applied.
- Applicants are advised to apply well in advance of the deadline.

Requirements Upon Admission

Grade Requirements and Timelines

Once enrolled in the OTA program students are required to complete all courses in the four semesters of instruction in sequence in order to integrate theoretical and clinical education.

Students must receive a minimum grade of C (75) in all required occupational therapy assistant courses. Failure to earn a C (75) or better will result in program probation.. Failure of two courses will result in program dismissal. Students who fail two courses will not be readmitted to the program. Students who are passing and withdraw or do not complete an OTA course may reapply to the program only once. Readmission is not guaranteed and is on a space available basis. The readmission decision is based on the recommendations of the faculty and department chair. Students must resume OTA coursework within one year of the date of stop-out. Students must successfully complete all required coursework, clinical and program objectives and competencies within four years of initial acceptance into the OTA program in order to graduate. Level II fieldwork must be completed within 12 months of completion of the OTA academic coursework.

Cost of Attending and Completing the OTA Program

The Associate of Science in OTA consists of 72 credits, including 20 pre-admission credits, 10 credits general education courses and 42 OTA credits. Once admitted into the OTA program students complete the OTA courses in sequence over a period of two academic years.

The TOTAL cost of attending and completing the OTA program (72 credits) is as follows: 2022 tuition and fees (\$220)\$15,840 (out of state (\$426) \$30,672); additional college fees: application fee \$10, registration deposit \$50 (applied to first semester fees); student support fee \$148; instructional support fee \$9/credit OTA courses \$378, additional costs for the OTA program \$1,400 (includes student membership in American Occupational Therapy Association (\$150), CPR (\$70), fieldwork shirt and name tag (\$35), lab supplies (\$40), program pin (\$20), attendance at one professional conference and three meetings (\$70), fieldwork-related costs – travel, supplies and site-specific requirements such as fingerprinting or National Background Check (\$400), books and subscriptions (\$2,000 est.) All students are required to be enrolled in a health insurance plan – their own or the college plan \$3,858. Costs are subject to change. Please refer to the College Catalog for current Tuition & Fees.

Fieldwork Affiliations

Transportation to the fieldwork sites is the student's responsibility. Students need to have reliable transportation and should be prepared to travel an hour or more from campus. Students are advised to decrease outside work obligations in the first three semesters, then discontinue work during full-time fieldwork affiliations in the fourth semester. Fieldwork hours may extend into evenings and weekends and extend beyond the academic year. The availability of clinical affiliations depends on the ability of area healthcare providers to accept students. In some cases, affiliations will be completed in a fifth semester.

Health Requirements

Accepted applicants must comply with the Bristol Community College's health services requirements. This includes an annual physical examination, covid vaccinations, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B vaccination and titre and varicella (chicken pox) immunization or titre within the last 12 months. If under the age of 21 you must also be tested for meningitis. A two-step TB test and flu shot is required each year. Students who decline having a flu shot may not be able to complete the program's clinical fieldwork requirements. Students must be certified by the **American Heart Association in C.P.R. (Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers)**. Students are required to maintain C.P.R. certification and health insurance throughout their enrollment. Additional laboratory tests, including drug screening are required each year by the program and clinical agencies. Clinical agencies may require additional procedures such as fingerprinting or National Background Check at any time. All costs are paid by the student.

Please be advised that despite Massachusetts law that permits the use of medical marijuana and the possession, use, distribution and cultivation of marijuana in limited amounts, any possession, use, distribution or cultivation of marijuana remains prohibited under college policy pursuant to federal law. Further, any student who tests positive for marijuana will be ineligible for clinical placement. Please refer to the College's Student Handbook for the College's complete Marijuana Policy.

Additional Requirements

Upon admission to the OTA Program students will be required to attend a program information meeting. Physical examination and CPR certification must be completed prior to the start of classes or students will not be able to attend clinical fieldwork which will prevent completion of program objectives. All admitted students are required to complete the Online Learning sample course in their AccessBCC account prior to the start of fall classes.

Upon admission to the program and at regular intervals during the program, all students must undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check and a Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) check. These checks are required due to potential unsupervised contact with children, the disabled, or the elderly during clinical experiences. The College is authorized by the Commonwealth's Department of Criminal Justice to access CORI records. Sex Offender checks shall be performed pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 6, Sections 178C-178P. A positive CORI/SORI check may prevent students from participating in clinical assignments in contracted health facilities and prevent students from completing the program objectives. Students found to have certain criminal convictions or pending criminal actions will be presumed ineligible for clinical placement. For more information regarding the College's CORI/SORI check process, please contact your program Chair.

The Massachusetts Board of Allied Health Professionals requires licensure applicants to report any history of felonies or misdemeanors and may deny licensure to those applicants. Further information is available from the MA Board of Allied Health regarding guidelines for applicants with criminal records call (617) 701-8605 or email at alliedhealth@mass.gov.



The Disciplinary Action Committee of the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) requires a criminal background check of all applicants and may refuse to administer the certification exam, and/or deny certification to any individual charged with or convicted of a felony. For further information, contact NBCOT, One Bank Street, Suite 300, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878; (301) 990-7979.

Essential Functions

OTA students must possess certain cognitive, physical, and psychosocial abilities in order to successfully complete the requirements of the program and ultimately practice in the profession:

- Cognitive ability to learn and apply the skills necessary to meet the curriculum requirements of the program and to qualify to take the NBCOT certification examination.
- Sufficient visual skills to allow accurate reading of a medical record, reading and recording of vital signs, and assessment of patients within a distance of 10 feet.
- Sufficient hearing skills to successfully interact with all team members, as well as to hear and respond to equipment, monitors, and alarms.
- Physical abilities to safely meet the multiple needs of various patient populations. This includes sufficient joint mobility, strength, motor control, balance, functional mobility and the ability to lift and move patients from one surface to another.
- Communication skills to clearly and effectively communicate in English with patients, families, faculty, and healthcare workers in both verbal and written form.
- Emotional stability to demonstrate professional interactions with faculty, patients, families, and all other professional staff; to demonstrate respect and confidentiality; to demonstrate good judgment and ethical behavior; to deal effectively with conflict situations; and to demonstrate responsibility for oneself and his/her actions.

Accreditation

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 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's phone number C/O AOTA is 301.652.6611. The website is www.acoteonline.org and email is accred@aota.org

Certification and Licensure

Graduates of the program are eligible 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 graduate will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). All states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination and evidence of good moral character. A criminal record may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification and/or attain state licensure.



Preadmission Courses

Preadmission courses must be completed at time of application with grades of B- or better.

Course #	Title	Credits
	BIO 233 or BIO 234	4
COM 104	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
ENG 101	Composition I: College Writing	3
ENG 102	Composition II: Writing about Literature	3
	HLT 101 or HLT 102	1
MTH 119	Fundamental Statistics	3
PSY 101	General Psychology	3

Degree Requirements

General Courses

Course #	Title	Credits
BIO 233	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 234	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
COM 104	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
ENG 101	Composition I: College Writing	3
ENG 102	Composition II: Writing about Literature	3
	HLT 101 or HLT 102	1
MTH 119	Fundamental Statistics	3
PSY 101	General Psychology	3
SOC 101	Principles of Sociology	3

Elective Courses

HST 111 or HST 112 recommended for transfer.

Course #	Title	Credits
	Global and Historic Awareness Elective	3



Program Courses

Course #	Title	Credits
OTA 111	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	4
OTA 117	Psychosocial Performance	4
OTA 121	Cognitive and Sensorimotor Performance	4
OTA 125	Movement in Human Performance	3
OTA 127	Psychosocial Therapeutic Modalities	4
OTA 233	Common Conditions of Physical Dysfunction	4
OTA 235	Professional Practice Skills	4
OTA 237	Developmental/Pediatric OT Practice	4
OTA 241	Level II Occupational Therapy Clinical Practice - A	5
OTA 243	Level II Occupational Therapy Clinical Practice - B	5
OTA 244	Seminar in Occupational Therapy	2

Required Course Sequence - Fall Semester 1

BIO 234 and SOC 101 must be completed prior to (preferred) or during the first semester.

Course #	Title	Credits
OTA 111	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	4
OTA 117	Psychosocial Performance	4
BIO 234	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
SOC 101	Principles of Sociology	3

Required Course Sequence - Spring Semester 2

Course #	Title	Credits
OTA 121	Cognitive and Sensorimotor Performance	4
OTA 125	Movement in Human Performance	3
OTA 127	Psychosocial Therapeutic Modalities	4
	Global and Historic Awareness Elective	3

Recommended Course Sequence - Summer

Consider taking any remaining General Education courses to lighten semester load.



Required Course Sequence - Fall Semester 3

Course #	Title	Credits
OTA 233	Common Conditions of Physical Dysfunction	4
OTA 235	Professional Practice Skills	4
OTA 237	Developmental/Pediatric OT Practice	4

Required Course Sequence - Spring Semester 4

Course #	Title	Credits
OTA 241	Level II Occupational Therapy Clinical Practice - A	5
OTA 243	Level II Occupational Therapy Clinical Practice - B	5
OTA 244	Seminar in Occupational Therapy	2
Total credits:		73

Category Descriptions

BIO 233 or BIO 234

Credits: 4

Course #	Title	Credits
BIO 233	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 234	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4

HLT 101 or HLT 102

Credits: 1

MAA 101 or HLT 106 can be substituted for HLT 101 or HLT 102.

Choose one of the following:

Course #	Title	Credits
HLT 101	Medical Language Module I	1
HLT 102	Medical Language Module II	1

Global and Historic Awareness Elective

Credits: 3

Choose one Global and Historic Awareness elective.