



# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Dawn McKenna-Sallade, Program Coordinator  
[www.sac.edu/ota](http://www.sac.edu/ota)  
 (714)564-6833

## Occupational Therapy Assistant Degree (0583)

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program provides a strong foundation in the skills and knowledge necessary for entry-level occupational therapy assistant competencies.

**Occupational therapy** is a discipline, which focuses on function as well as quality of life. Occupational therapy assistants provide



service to individuals with physical, mental or environmental disabilities, across life phases, who need to remediate skills of everyday tasks of work, self-care and leisure. The major requires general education

courses including; biological, social, and behavioral science, in addition to occupational therapy courses. The program utilizes classroom instruction and fieldwork experiences to prepare the student to meet certification and employment standards.

The associate-degree-level 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 telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its Web address is [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org). Graduates of the program will be 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 individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

Finger printing is a requirement to apply for state licensure with BOT and for placement in most level II fieldwork sites. For information about limitations based on felonies, students are advised to call NBCOT and BOT any time prior to the application process.

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants have the opportunity to work in a wide variety of settings including hospitals, outpatient centers, psychiatric facilities, hand clinics, skilled nursing facilities, school districts and private pediatric clinics. For the current Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages (OES), please visit the State of California Employment Development Department website at [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)

## INFORMATION SESSION:

Information Sessions are held one time per month for 8 months of the year. Please refer to website for details.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Each semester has its own application period. Check our website for the dates as they become available. For questions regarding the application process, please attend an information session. Completed application will be accepted in the following format:

SPRING semester – a randomization selection process (lottery). FALL semester - an Associate's degree in OTA to a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Studies (OS). Students will earn both degrees. The selection for this program will be criterion base. This program is for applicants without a Bachelor's Degree awarded from another college/university.

1. Apply to Santa Ana College to obtain a student ID #.
  2. Download and complete the OTA application from our website. Incomplete application will not be reviewed and will be returned.
  3. Obtain official high school transcripts (for applicants without an AA/AS or BA/BS degree awarded from an accredited United States Institution).
  4. Ensure satisfactory completion of all prerequisite courses, or their equivalents, with a grade of "C" or better. A letter grade of "C-" is not acceptable. ***Applicants must have completed all prerequisite courses and the grades must be posted to the official transcripts before submitting an application.***
    - a. Applicants with AP Exams taken in lieu of a prerequisite course must have a score of 3, 4 or 5 on the AP test. Submit an official AP Score Report (in an official sealed envelope) from the College Board with your application.
- Continue on back...**

Continue from front...

5. Obtain official college transcripts from every college attended and include them in the application packet. DO NOT send the transcripts directly to Admissions & Records and DO NOT submit unofficial transcripts in the packet. Transcripts must be in sealed envelope from the college.
6. Deliver the application materials in one sealed envelope to the OTA program by the deadline.
7. **This is only for students who have been accepted into the program.** Once accepted, about 2 months prior to starting the program, students will be sent information for completion the following:
  - Background check via CastleBranch
  - Provide CPR (BLS for Healthcare Providers) Certification from American Heart Association
  - Obtain professional liability insurance
  - Report of Medical Screening
  - Provide documentation of various medical immunizations
    - Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
    - Varicella (Chicken Pox)
    - Hepatitis B
    - TB Skin Test, OR quantiFERON Gold blood test, OR clear chest X-Ray
    - Completed DTP (Tdap) Series
    - Influenza Shot

PREREQUISITES	UNITS
Biology 149, Human Anatomy & Physiology (may be taken as a part of a combined course or separately) This course has to be taken within the last 10 years. *Courses without a lab component are not equivalent to this prerequisite*	4
Communication Studies 101 or 101H, Introduction to Interpersonal Communication or Communication Studies 102, Public Speaking or Communication Studies 103 or 103H, Introduction to Intercultural Communication or Communication Studies 140, Argumentation and Debate or Communication Studies 145, Group Dynamics	3
English 101 or 101H, Freshman Composition	4
Psychology 100 or 100H, Introduction to Psychology	3
<b>Total Units for Prerequisites</b>	<b>14</b>

OTA COURSES	UNITS
<b>First Year-Semester I</b>	
OTA 100, Medical Terminology and Documentation for the OTA	1
OTA 101, Foundations of Occupation and Occupational Therapy	4
OTA 101L, Exploration of Occupation	2
OTA 110, Human Occupation Across Lifespan	3
<b>First Year-Semester II</b>	
OTA 102, Psychosocial Function and Dysfunction	4
OTA 102L, Psychosocial Components of Occupation	2.5
OTA 111, Applied Kinesiology	1
OTA 115, Human Disease and Occupation	2
Psychology 250, Introduction to Abnormal Psychology <i>This is the only course that may be taken prior to being admitted to the OTA program</i>	3
<b>Second Year-Semester III</b>	
OTA 103, Physical Function and Dysfunction	4
OTA 103L, Physical Components of Occupation	2.5
OTA 201, Contemporary Models of Occupational Therapy Practice	4
<b>Second Year-Semester IV</b>	
Level II Fieldwork – Part I	6
Level II Fieldwork – Part II	6
<b>Total Units Required for Major</b>	<b>45</b>

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS*	UNITS
U.S. History or Political Science (American Institutions)	3
Humanities	3
Cultural Breadth	3
Communication and Analytical Thinking	3
Math proficiency for graduation: Successful completion of Intermediate Algebra or higher.	
<b>Total General Education Units</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>Total Units for Graduation</b>	<b>71</b>
-----------------------------------	-----------

\*Students with a Bachelor's degree awarded from this country will not need to take any additional General Education requirements, as these requirements would have already been fulfilled with the Bachelor's degree.

#### NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Rancho Santiago Community College District complies with all Federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Harassment of any employee/student with regard to race, color, national origin, gender or disability is strictly prohibited. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to District's Title IX Officer and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator.

Rancho Santiago Community College District  
Title IX Officer and Section 504/ADA  
Vice Chancellor HR  
2323 N. Broadway  
Santa Ana, CA 92706  
714-480-7489

