

■ THE PROGRAM

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Arkansas State University integrates didactic instruction, experiential learning, and fieldwork experience to provide the student the opportunity to develop the knowledge, professional and clinical skills to become an entry-level occupational therapy assistant.

An occupational therapy assistant (OTA) degree is granted to the student upon successful completion of 28 semester hours of prerequisite coursework and 36 professional core hours. The OTA Program delivers these 36 core hours over the course of one year in a lock-step format, graduating a class every August. Upon graduation, students are eligible to take the national credentialing examination (COTA Exam) offered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After passing this examination, the graduate will be a certified occupational therapy assistant (COTA). All states require licensure to practice occupational therapy, and proof of this certification is required in the licensure application process. Occupational therapy assistants practice under the clinical supervision of a Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR).

■ MISSION AND GOALS

The mission of the program is to provide quality education to students in the profession of occupational therapy assistant. The program will assess the attainment of this mission in terms of the contributions its graduates make to health care in the Delta region and beyond.

Students who have successfully completed the OTA program will demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge and skills to improving occupational performance for individuals across the lifespan in a variety of contexts.

■ ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at A-State has been granted accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) for a period of five years.

**Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education
c/o Accreditation Department**

American Occupational Therapy Association

4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200

Bethesda, MD 20814-3449

Phone: 301-652-AOTA

Fax: 301.652.1417

Email: accred@aota.org



Arkansas State is a EEQ/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/
ADEA employer

Scan here to learn more
about the OTA Degree



■ CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Occupational therapy is one of the most in-demand health professions in the US and internationally. The number of educational programs in the field has, like many health professions, exploded. Yet, Arkansas only has a few programs to meet the regional workforce and societal needs. The Delta region has a unique configuration of needs and strengths upon which the program has been designed to meet or build upon. Preliminary needs assessment has identified a regional and state need for occupational therapy practitioners.

Occupational therapy practitioners are in high demand. Employment of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants is expected to increase faster than the national average from 2010-2020. Arkansas is expected to have a 20 percent increased need for OTD and OTA from 2010-2020, and jobs are expected to increase by 12 percent in 10 years.

Occupational therapy practitioners can improve independence, occupational performance and quality of life for a variety of populations. Occupational therapy services can be found in various settings, including:

- Hospitals
- Outpatient clinics
- Rehabilitation clinics
- Skilled nursing, extended care or subacute facilities
- Homes
- Education or research centers
- Schools
- Industrial, workplace or other occupational environments
- Community based settings
- Mental health/behavioral health settings



ARKANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

For more information:

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ewallace@AState.edu

Tel: 870-972-2610

Additional information is available from the
American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA):

AOTA

4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220

Telephone: (301)-652-6611

www.aota.org



ARKANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

**OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY
ASSISTANT**



COMMITTED
& *Connected*
College of Nursing and
Health Professions

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

■ ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students must apply for admission into the OTA program by close of business March 15. Students must be able to demonstrate successful completion of all prerequisite coursework with a B grade or better prior to the beginning of classes. The OTA program admits 30 students per year into the program, using a competitive admission process. The application process includes a letter of application, resume, two letters of recommendation, official transcripts and completion of required prerequisite courses. Specific details regarding the application process are available at AState.edu/Degrees/OTA.

Applicants will complete all documents and submit them to the OTA program director. Admission to Arkansas State University is required prior to admission to the OTA Program. Based on recent legislation in Arkansas, students admitted to professional programs that lead to licensure upon graduation are required to have a successful background check to complete formal admission. All application materials must be sent to:

Jessie Bricker, OTA Program Director
College of Nursing and Health Professions
PO Box 910 • State University, AR 72467

■ PROGRAM COSTS

Detailed information regarding the cost of obtaining an associates degree from Arkansas State University can be found in the undergraduate bulletin at AState.edu/Registrar/Students bulletins, which includes tuition, fees, room and board. The following is a list of estimated expenses associated specifically with the OTA program.

- 1. BOOKS:** approximately \$2,500 annually.
- 2. UNIFORMS, NAME TAGS:** Two name tags approximately \$10 each. Fieldwork sites may require uniforms and cost will vary.
- 3. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE:** Malpractice insurance is required for fieldwork educational experiences. The cost is approximately \$50 per year.

4. ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS: American Occupational Therapy Association membership is strongly encouraged at an approximate cost of \$80 per year. Additionally, students are encouraged to participate in the A-State Student Occupational Therapy Association (\$20/year).

5. HEALTH INSURANCE: The university offers each student the opportunity to purchase an accident and hospitalization insurance policy as part of a group consisting of A-State students and students enrolled in other universities across the state. Membership in the group is voluntary. Application forms are available through the website located at AState.edu/a/student-health-center/index.dot. Health insurance is required during fieldwork educational experiences.

6. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND IMMUNIZATIONS: Fieldwork education agreements require specific immunizations and an annual physical examination. Costs for these procedures vary and are available through the A-State Student Health Center. Price information is available at AState.edu/a/student-health-center/index.dot. TB mask fittings average \$20. Immunizations may also be obtained through the Craighead County Health Department.

7. CPR CERTIFICATION: The cost varies depending on the location and sponsor (American Heart Association or American Red Cross) of CPR courses. The usual expense is approximately \$40 per year. The CPR certification must be for Healthcare Provider status.

8. BACKGROUND CHECKS: The cost for the background check required by the State of Arkansas is approximately \$100

9. FIELDWORK EDUCATION: Students are responsible for living expenses, transportation and tuition while on all fieldwork education experiences. The fee for the fieldwork education assessment tool varies. Additional information will be provided by the academic fieldwork coordinator.

10. OTHER EXPENSES: There may be other optional costs associated with the program.

■ CURRICULUM

Semester One - Fall

OTA 2013	Fundamentals of Treatment	3
OTA 2023	Emergence of OT Science	3
OTA 2033	Technology Skills Training I	3
OTA 2043	From Disease to Practice	3
OTA 2103	OTA in Behavioral Health	3
OTA 2071	Fieldwork Education IA	1
		16

Semester Two - Spring

OTA 2093	Technology Skills Training II	3
OTA 2053	Adult Practice for the OTA	3
OTA 2063	Pediatrics for the OTA	3
OTA 2081	Fieldwork Education IB	1
OTA 2115	Fieldwork Education IIA Rehab Setting	5
		15

Semester Three - Summer

OTA 2125	Fieldwork Education IIB Specialty	5
		5

Total Number of credit hours required

36



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 Health Professions