

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT, A.A.S.

## Entry Time

Fall

## Award

Associate of Applied Science degree  
2 years (5 terms including summer)

Occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) work with patients of all ages and help them learn skills to lead independent lives. OTAs work under the supervision of an occupational therapist (OT) to provide hands-on services to clients who are learning new ways to succeed in the occupation of life. This program starts each year in the fall.

This Allied Health program has a mandatory background check for clinical purposes.

## Accreditation

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the national certification exam administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Successful completion of the exam leads to the Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) designation. Most states, including Iowa, require a license to practice. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification exam or obtain state licensure.

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)  
7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
(301) 652-AOTA  
[www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org) (<http://www.acoteonline.org>)

## Career Opportunities

- school systems
- assisted living facilities
- hospitals
- outpatient clinics
- long-term care facilities
- private practice

The primary location for Occupational Therapy Assistant students will be the Linn County Regional Center in Hiawatha.

## Degree Requirements

Prerequisites		Credit Hours
Select one of the following:		2.5
HSC-117	Basic Medical Terminology <sup>3</sup>	
HSC-115	Medical Terminology <sup>3</sup>	

BIO-168	Human Anatomy Physiology I <sup>3</sup>	4
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>6.5</b>
<b>Term 1</b>		
OTA-101	Foundations of Occupational Therapy <sup>3</sup>	2
OTA-207	OT Methods I <sup>3</sup>	3
OTA-213	Occupational Development <sup>3</sup>	2
BIO-173	Human Anatomy Physiology II <sup>1,3</sup>	4
HSC-107	Professionals in Health <sup>1</sup>	2
PSY-111	Intro to Psychology <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Term 2</b>		
OTA-211	Pathophysiology for the OTA <sup>3</sup>	4
OTA-212	Functional Kinesiology <sup>3</sup>	3
OTA-306	OT Methods II <sup>3</sup>	3
OTA-405	Psychosocial Dysfunction <sup>3</sup>	4
OTA-850	Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork I-A <sup>3</sup>	1
Select one of the following:		3
SPC-101	Fundamentals of Oral Comm <sup>1</sup>	
COM-222	Communication for Health Care Professionals <sup>1</sup>	
SPC-112	Public Speaking <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>Term 3</b>		
ENG-105	Composition I <sup>1</sup>	3
OTA-308	Physical Dysfunction I <sup>3</sup>	4
OTA-309	Physical Dysfunction II <sup>3</sup>	4
OTA-851	Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork I-B <sup>2,3</sup>	1
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Term 4</b>		
OTA-205	Occupational Therapy Assistant Management <sup>3</sup>	2
OTA-206	Comm Health & Special Pops <sup>3</sup>	3
OTA-406	OT Methods III <sup>3</sup>	3
OTA-411	Geriatric Interventions for the OTA <sup>3</sup>	1.5
OTA-412	Pediatric Interventions <sup>3</sup>	3
OTA-853	OTA Fieldwork I-C <sup>2,3</sup>	2.5
Humanities or History/Culture Course ( <a href="https://creditcatalog.kirkwood.edu/aas-degree-humanities-requirement/">https://creditcatalog.kirkwood.edu/aas-degree-humanities-requirement/</a> ) <sup>1</sup>		3
<b>Term Totals:</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>Term 5</b>		
OTA-409	Professional Development <sup>3</sup>	2
OTA-852	Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork II-A <sup>2,3</sup>	6

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OTA-854	Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork II-B <sup>2,3</sup>	6
	<b>Term Totals:</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>Program Totals:</b>	<b>84.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Courses may be taken before beginning the technical portion of the program.

<sup>2</sup> Indicates a course which involves off-campus clinical experience.

<sup>3</sup> Minimum grade of C is required in all technical OTA courses, as well as all program prerequisites courses and BIO-168 Human Anatomy Physiology I, BIO-173 Human Anatomy Physiology II.

### Optional Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
HSC-103	Studies in Health Sciences	1-3