

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT - ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE



## OCTA

**Occupational Title: Occupational Therapy Assistant**  
**Newport County Campus only**  
**Evening/Weekend Program (Fieldwork-days)**

The CCRI 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:

7501 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 510E  
 Bethesda, MD 20814  
 (301) 652-6611

[www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org) (<http://www.acoteonline.org/>)

Occupational therapy is the use of purposeful activity and interventions to promote health and achieve functional outcomes in areas such as activities of daily living, work, play, or education activities. Achieving functional outcomes means to develop, improve or restore the highest level of independence to any individual who is limited by physical injury or illness, cognitive impairment, psychosocial dysfunction, mental illness, developmental or learning disability or an adverse environmental condition. Occupational therapy helps people of all ages lead productive, satisfying lives.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program is offered at the Newport County Campus. It is an evening/weekend program; however, fieldwork experiences are offered during the day. Although Occupational Therapy Assistant courses are offered at the Newport County Campus, the required general education courses may be taken at other CCRI campuses or sites prior to acceptance. All fieldwork courses shall be completed within 18 months following completion of the academic preparation.

Students successfully completing the accredited program earn an Associate in Applied Science degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant (AAS\_OCTA) and are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for occupational therapy assistants, which is administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT). An individual must successfully pass the certification examination to apply for licensure to practice as a certified occupational therapy assistant in the state of Rhode Island.

**Technical standards:** The physical activity level for occupational therapy assistants is classified as "medium" by the Department of Labor in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.

**Note:** Many courses require prerequisites, corequisites and/or testing. See course descriptions for details (<https://catalog.ccri.edu/course-descriptions/>).

## General Policies

See important general policies in the beginning of this section on the performance-based Health Sciences application process, academic progress, advanced placement, background check, CPR certification,

health insurance, health records, reinstatement, transportation, uniforms, and equipment.

## Minimum Requirements to Apply to the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

1. **CCRI application** – Complete and submit a CCRI Application for Enrollment. General Studies should be the first choice; pre-Occupational Therapy Assistant (OCTA) should be the second choice.
2. **High school transcript** – Send an official copy of the applicant's high school or GED® transcript, including date of graduation. If the applicant holds a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, the high school transcript may be waived; a college transcript must indicate completion and degree awarded.
3. Complete Foundational Kinesiology (RHAB 1100) (**recommended**) and it may be considered in the performance-based acceptance process.
4. **CCRI uses a multiple measures** approach to determine admission into Health Science programs (For example: High School and GED® transcripts, SAT, ACT, HESI A2 or ACCUPLACER scores). Placement can also be determined by taking college level English and Math courses. Anyone with a degree from a regionally accredited higher education institution may have this requirement waived following submission of the official college transcript. If using ACCUPLACER, the following guidelines are used:
  - **Placement testing** – Complete a standardized test (ACCUPLACER NEXT GENERATION) issued by CCRI's Advising Center.
  - **Reading comprehension** – Competency of 250 or above is required for reading comprehension or completion of Reading and Study Skills Program (ENGL 1002) with a grade of B- or better.
5. **Complete the following Application Requirement courses** with a grade of B- or better:
  - Human Physiology (BIOL 1010) or Human Anatomy & Physiology I (BIOL 2201)
  - Introduction to Occupational Therapy (OCTA 1000)
  - Medical Terminology for Rehabilitative Health (RHAB 1010)
6. **Complete the following Application Requirement course** with a grade of C or better:
  - Composition I (ENGL 1010). Composition I for Speakers of English as a Second Language (ESL) (ENGL 1300) will not substitute.
7. **GPA** – Earn and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.7 or better for all college courses taken.
8. **Health Sciences application** – Complete and submit the Performance-Based Health Sciences application including a preadmission degree evaluation during the open enrollment period. The application and instructions can be found on the Admissions webpage (<https://www.ccri.edu/oes/admissions/>).
  - **Important:** All the above requirements must be completed satisfactorily **before** submission of the Performance-Based Health Sciences application and do not guarantee acceptance to the program. Acceptance will be *conditional* upon completing the remaining program prerequisite courses (14 credits) during the spring application semester (February).
9. **Complete the following program prerequisite courses** with a grade of C or better, before or during the spring semester for the year in which you are applying:
  - Human Physiology (BIOL 1020) or Human Anatomy & Physiology II (BIOL 2202)
  - Introduction to College Mathematics (MATH 1025), Mathematics for Liberal Arts Students (MATH 1139) or MATH 1139C, Statistics for the Health and

Social Sciences (MATH 1175) or MATH 1175C, Statistical Analysis I (MATH 1240), Quantitative Business Analysis I (MATH 2077), Quantitative Business Analysis II (MATH 2138), Pre-Calculus Mathematics (MATH 2111), Calculus I (MATH 2141), Calculus II (MATH 2142), Calculus III (MATH 2243). (Highest grade earned in any of these courses will be calculated in the point system.)

- General Psychology (PSYC 2010)
- Communication Fundamentals^ (COMM 1010)
  - **Important:** All the above requirements must be completed satisfactorily **before** official acceptance to the program. Submission of the Performance-Based Health Sciences application does not guarantee acceptance to the program. Students declining acceptance into the program for the semester offered must resubmit a Performance-Based Health Sciences application for the program and meet the current admission requirements for the application period in which they reapply. Once accepted into the Occupational Therapy program, the student must attend a mandatory orientation.

10. **Background check** – Students are required to submit a background check when directed by notification from One Stop Student Services. Final acceptance to the program is dependent on the results of the background check. A felony conviction will not preclude admission to the program. However, it can impact Level I and II fieldwork placement availability, as well as graduate eligibility for certification and credentialing. No incident or probation can have occurred within the past seven years. Applicants convicted of a felony will need to comply with state licensure requirements from the Rhode Island Department of Health. For more information, contact the department chairperson.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of values, attitudes and behaviors congruent with the profession's standards and ethics; interdisciplinary and supervisory relationships; participation in professional associations and the responsibilities of Occupational Therapy Assistants in documentation of services.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of management of occupational therapy services including departmental operations; supervisory requirements; data collection for quality assurance; compliance with regulations and reimbursement policies and national and state credentialing requirements.
3. Demonstrate ability in effective oral and written communication as well as body language with patients, families, other health care professionals and the public; to utilize these skills in professional communications with patients, families/caregivers, colleagues and other professionals.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of multicultural and sociocultural factors and how they affect occupational therapy services and apply these factors to delivery of occupational therapy services.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the structure and function of the normal human body, the sensorimotor, psychological and cognitive components and their development throughout the lifespan.
6. Demonstrate ability to analyze activities of daily living, work, play/leisure; how to perform and teach selected tasks: ability to grade and adapt activities for effective occupational therapeutic intervention.

7. Demonstrate ability in therapeutic interventions of environmental adaptations; basic orthotics, prosthetics and technologies and to assess their effectiveness.
8. Demonstrate ability to provide occupational therapy intervention in activities of daily living, work activities and play/leisure skills with individuals and groups.
9. Demonstrate ability to administer standardized and non-standardized tests appropriate to the role of a certified occupational therapy assistant under the supervision of a licensed/certified occupational therapist.

## Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Preadmission General Education Requirements</b>		
These courses must be taken prior to program admission:		
BIOL 2201	Human Anatomy & Physiology I <sup>MSCI; Information Literacy; Scientific Reasoning</sup>	4
BIOL 2202	Human Anatomy & Physiology II <sup>MSCI; Information Literacy; Scientific Reasoning</sup>	4
COMM 1010	Communication Fundamentals^ <sup>HUMN: Non-Written Communication; Social and Professional Responsibilities</sup>	3
ENGL 1010	Composition I (or ENGL 1010A) <sup>HUMN; Written Communication; Information Literacy</sup>	3
MATH 1025	Introduction to College Mathematics <sup>1; MSCI; Scientific Reasoning; Quantitative Literacy</sup>	3
PSYC 2010	General Psychology <sup>SSCI; Critical Thinking; Scientific Reasoning</sup>	4
PSYC 2030	Developmental Psychology <sup>SSCI; Critical Thinking; Scientific Reasoning</sup>	3
Subtotal		24
<b>Preadmission Major Education Requirements</b>		
These courses must be taken prior to program admission:		
OCTA 1000	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	2
RHAB 1010	Medical Terminology for Rehabilitative Health	1
Subtotal		3
<b>Major Education Requirements</b>		
Students must be accepted into the program before taking any major requirements.		
OCTA 1010	Fundamentals of Treatment I	4
OCTA 1030	Fundamentals of Treatment II	4
OCTA 1040	Gerontologic Occupational Therapy	3
OCTA 1050	Pediatric Occupational Therapy	4
OCTA 1060	Level I Fieldwork^	1
OCTA 1070	Tests and Measurements for Occupational Therapy Assistants	2
OCTA 1080	Therapeutic Activity Group Skills	2
OCTA 2010	Psychosocial Occupational Therapy	4
OCTA 2020	Physical Rehabilitation and Health	4
OCTA 2030	Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork IIA^	4
OCTA 2035	Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork IIB^	4
OCTA 2040	Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork Seminar	2
RHAB 1030	Pathophysiology for Rehabilitative Health Practitioners	3
RHAB 1110	Kinesiology	4

Subtotal	45
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>72</b>

<sup>1</sup> If you plan to transfer to a four-year institution, please consider registering for Mathematics for Liberal Arts Students (MATH 1139) or (MATH 1139C), or Statistics for the Health and Social Sciences (MATH 1175) or (MATH 1175C).

<sup>^</sup> Work-based learning course

## Recommended Course Sequence

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>Semester 1</b>		
Fall (Application Requirements):		
BIOL 2201	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4
ENGL 1010	Composition I	3
OCTA 1000	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	2
RHAB 1010	Medical Terminology for Rehabilitative Health	1
<b>Hours</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Semester 2</b>		
Spring:		
BIOL 2202	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4
COMM 1010	Communication Fundamentals <sup>^</sup>	3
MATH 1025	Introduction to College Mathematics <sup>1</sup>	3
PSYC 2010	General Psychology	4
<b>Hours</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Summer Session</b>		
RHAB 1110	Kinesiology	4
<b>Hours</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Semester 1</b>		
Fall:		
OCTA 1010	Fundamentals of Treatment I	4
OCTA 1070	Tests and Measurements for Occupational Therapy Assistants	2
PSYC 2030	Developmental Psychology	3
RHAB 1030	Pathophysiology for Rehabilitative Health Practitioners	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Semester 2</b>		
Spring:		
OCTA 1030	Fundamentals of Treatment II	4
OCTA 1040	Gerontologic Occupational Therapy	3
OCTA 1060	Level I Fieldwork <sup>^</sup>	1
OCTA 2010	Psychosocial Occupational Therapy	4
<b>Hours</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Semester 5</b>		
Fall:		
OCTA 1050	Pediatric Occupational Therapy	4
OCTA 1080	Therapeutic Activity Group Skills	2
OCTA 2020	Physical Rehabilitation and Health	4
<b>Hours</b>		<b>10</b>

### Semester 6

Spring:		
OCTA 2030	Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork IIA <sup>^</sup>	4
OCTA 2035	Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork IIB <sup>^</sup>	4
OCTA 2040	Occupational Therapy Assistant Fieldwork Seminar	2
<b>Hours</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>72</b>

<sup>1</sup> If you plan to transfer to a four-year institution, please consider registering for Mathematics for Liberal Arts Students (MATH 1139) or (MATH 1139C), or Statistics for the Health and Social Sciences (MATH 1175) or (MATH 1175C).

<sup>^</sup> Work-based learning course

## Transfer

Please meet with an Academic Advisor/Student Success Coach (<https://ccri.edu/advising/>) if you are interested in earning a bachelor's degree. Your Academic Advisor will help you select the courses that best prepare you for transfer to a four-year college or university.

Check out the Joint Admissions Agreement (<https://ccri.edu/jaa/>) if you are interested in transferring to Rhode Island College or the University of Rhode Island. The JAA program offers seamless transfer to RIC or URI with additional benefits. Transfer information, events, and articulations are available on the Transfer Center website ([https://ccri.edu/oes/transfer\\_center/](https://ccri.edu/oes/transfer_center/)).