

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Faculty

Program Director: M. Wonser, OTR/L, MSOT
Clinical Instructor: C. Hoff, OTR/L, MSOT
Instructor: S. Morrison, OTR/L, MSOT

Occupational therapy (OT) is the use of purposeful activity with individuals who are limited by physical injury or illness, psychosocial dysfunction, developmental or learning disabilities, poverty and cultural differences or the aging process, in order to maximize independence, prevent disability, and maintain health. Specific OT services include: teaching daily living skills; developing motor skills and sensory functioning; developing play/leisure skills and work capacities; designing, fabricating, or applying selected devices or adaptive equipment; using specifically designed crafts and exercises to enhance functional performance; administering assessments; and adapting environments for the handicapped. These services are provided individually, in groups, or through social systems. (Adopted from the American Occupational Therapy Association.)

The occupational therapy assistant program is an associate of science degree major designed to prepare students to obtain employment as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA); or a related field. The occupational therapy assistant program at Casper College is six semesters in length in which students complete five consecutive semesters of required academic course work, plus two eight-week fieldwork placements. The sequence begins with the fall semester and progresses through two years including one summer session. The courses build on information from previous semesters. After completion of academic course work, fieldwork is completed.

Students are admitted provisionally the fall semester. At the end of this first semester, applications are completed for full acceptance. At this time, students are granted full acceptance to the program, if requirements are met. The coursework is primarily laboratory experience designed to accommodate 12 students. The top 12 students in the admission process will be admitted. If more than 12 students are prepared to enter the program, they may be placed on a waiting list. A student must maintain at least a 2.3 GPA in each of the behavioral and biological sciences, English composition, and all occupational therapy course work. (Check with Program Director, many years two sections are admitted allowing the program to accommodate 24 students.)

The occupational therapy assistant curriculum includes basic human sciences, the human development process, analysis of specific life tasks and activities, understanding of health and illness, and occupational therapy theory and practice. The degree includes supervised fieldwork experiences.

The Casper College occupational therapy assistant program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD, 20824-1220. AOTA's phone number is 301- 652-AOTA. Graduates of the program will be able 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). Most states require licensure in order to practice; however state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination.

Background check and drug/alcohol policy

Students enrolled in any of the health science programs will participate in clinical experiences in a variety of agencies. Prior to participating in the clinical experiences, students will be subject to that agency's requirements for a background check, drug testing and/or drug abuse prevention policies. Students are then subject to the random drug testing policy of that agency. Due to most sites requiring background checks, all occupational therapy assistant students are required to complete background checks.

NOTE: To ensure that occupational therapy practitioners meet ethical and professional standards prior to entering the professions, all applicants for initial certification are required to provide information and documentation related to any illegal, unethical or incompetent behavior. Persons with a felony history may not be eligible to sit for the certification examination. When you apply to write the certification examination with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, you will be asked to answer questions related to the topic of felonies. For further information on these limitations, you can contact NBCOT at: Nation Board of Certification of Occupation Therapy, 800 S. Frederick Avenue, Suite 200, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877-4150.

Clinical accessibility policy

The occupational therapy assistant program utilizes a variety of health care agencies in the community for clinical experience for the students. If you have been employed in one or more of the agencies and are not eligible for rehire as an employee, the agency may not permit you to participate in the essential clinical component of the program.

Please contact the human resources department of the affected agency and request documentation that states the agency position on your participation in the clinical component of the program. If you receive a negative response from the agency, you may be ineligible to apply. A response indicating you will be permitted to attend clinicals in the agency will be given to the program director prior to the selection process for admission to the program. If you are unable to fulfill clinical requirements due to a previous employer issue and have not complied with the above, you could be dismissed from the program.

Physical Abilities for Student Seeking Admission to the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

For the purpose of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, a qualified individual is one who, with or without reasonable accommodation or modification, meets the essential eligibility requirements for participation in the program.

The field of occupational therapy assistant is a practice discipline with cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance requirements. Based on these requirements, a list of "Core Performance Standards" has been developed. These standards are part of each occupational therapy assistant course and some of the standards are more prevalent than others.

These standards should be used to assist students in determining whether accommodations or modifications are necessary for the student to meet program requirements. Students who identify potential difficulties with meeting the "Core Performance Standards" must communicate their concerns to the Student Services department as well as the program director. Determination is made on an individual basis as to whether or not the necessary accommodations or modifications can be made reasonably.

Core Performance Standards for Admission and Progression

Critical thinking: Critical thinking ability to exercise clinical judgment in a timely manner.

Interpersonal: Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact therapeutically with clients, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.

Communication: Communication skills sufficient for interaction with clients, families, staff, faculty and other students in verbal, nonverbal, and written form.

Mobility: Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room, safely perform treatments/procedures and assist clients; lift and transfer patients/clients; manipulate equipment; walk and/or stand for extended periods of time.

Motor skills: Gross and fine motor skills sufficient to provide safe and effective patient/client care.

Hearing: Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and safely assess patient/client needs.

Visual: Visual ability with or without corrective lenses sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in safe patient/client care.

Tactile: Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.

Fieldwork is an important part of the occupational therapy assistant program curriculum and is required to complete the program. There are two levels of fieldwork, plus the initial community experiences;

1. Community Experiences: These placements provide the students exposure to a variety of service programs and clientele within the community. The student is required to complete 20 hours each of the first two semesters.

2. Level I fieldwork is completed as an integrated part of course work. These placements are completed the fall and spring semesters of the second year. During this time, the students will spend consecutive days in an assigned facility, which has agreed to work with the occupational therapy assistant program as a training site. Placements will include psychosocial, physical disabilities, geriatric, pediatric, and developmental disability facilities.

3. Level II fieldwork consists of two eight-week clinical experiences. During this time the student will spend 40 hours per week at a contracted facility. Additional hours are frequently required to complete assignments at the various contracted fieldwork sites. Level II fieldwork is completed after all academic course work is completed.

For information contact:
 Marla J. Wonser, OTR/L, MSOT
 Director, Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
 Phone: 307-268-2867
 E-mail: mwonser@caspercollege.edu

**Associate of Science Degree
 Occupational Therapy Assistant**

(Recommended Curriculum)

General Education (Minimum 32 credits) Credits
 General education coursework can be completed from within or outside of the major field of study.

1. Exploration and Participation	
MATH 1000 Problem Solving	3
ZOO 2040 Human Anatomy	3
ZOO 2041 Human Anatomy Lab.	1
ZOO 2110 Human Physiology	4
2. Communication	
ENGL 1010 English I: Composition.	3
ENGL 1020 English II: Composition	3
3. Relationship with the World	
PSYC 1000 General Psychology	4
U.S. and Wyoming constitutions	3
Cultural environment	3
4. General Education Electives	4
Must be chosen from areas 1, 2, or 3 above.	
5. Physical Education	1

Major Requirements

OCTH 2000 Intro to Occupational Therapy.	2
COTA 2020 Human Occupations and Life Roles . . .	2
COTA 2100 Psychosocial Aspects	3
COTA 2150 Group Dynamics	1
COTA 2160 Leadership Skills	2
COTA 2200 Therapeutic Approaches and Media I . .	2
COTA 2210 Therapeutic Approaches and Media II . .	2
COTA 2220 Therapeutic Approaches and Media III .	3
COTA 2300 Fieldwork Integration I	2
COTA 2310 Fieldwork Integration II	1
COTA 2320 Fieldwork Integration III	1
COTA 2330 Fieldwork Integration IV.	1
COTA 2350 Clinical Theory and Practice I	3
COTA 2400 Clinical Theory and Practice II	3
COTA 2420 Clinical Conditions.	3
COTA 2450 Health Care Systems.	3
COTA 2500 Fieldwork A	3
COTA 2550 Fieldwork B	3
COTA 2600 Fieldwork Options	1-3
KIN 2050 Kinesiology	3

A minimum of 64 approved semester credits are required for graduation. For specific graduation requirements see "Academic Policies" and "Degree Requirements."

ONLY COURSES NUMBERED 1000 OR ABOVE CAN BE USED TOWARD THE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS, ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE, ASSOCIATE OF BUSINESS, ASSOCIATE OF FINE ARTS AND ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREES.

Suggested Curriculum Sequence**Fall I**

ENGL 1010 English I: Composition	3
COTA 2300 Fieldwork Integration I	2
OCTH 2000 Intro to Occupational Therapy	2
PSYC 1000 General Psychology	4
ZOO 2040 Human Anatomy	3
ZOO 2041 Human Anatomy Lab	1
Total credits	15

Spring I

COTA 2020 Human Occupations and Life Roles	2
COTA 2200 Therapeutic Approaches and Media I	2
COTA 2310 Fieldwork Integration II	1
Humanities (Suggested: ART 1000)	3
KIN 2050 Kinesiology	3
ZOO 2110 Human Physiology	4
Elective	1
Total credits	16

Summer I

COTA 2150 Group Dynamics	1
COTA 2420 Clinical Conditions	3
ENGL 1020 English II: Composition	3
Total credits	7

Fall II

COTA 2100 Psychosocial Aspects	3
COTA 2160 Leadership Skills	2
COTA 2210 Therapeutic Approaches and Media II	2
COTA 2320 Fieldwork Integration III	1
COTA 2350 Clinical Theory and Practice I	3
MATH 1000 Problem Solving	3
Elective-General Education	3
Total credits	17

Spring II

COTA 2220 Therapeutic Approaches and Media III	3
COTA 2330 Fieldwork Integration IV	1
COTA 2400 Clinical Theory and Practice II	3
COTA 2450 Health Care Systems	3
POLS 1000 American and Wyoming Government	3
PEAC Physical education class	1
Total credits	15

Field Work

COTA 2500 Fieldwork A	3
COTA 2550 Fieldwork B	3
COTA 2600 Fieldwork Options	2-3

Electives

COTA 2975 Special Topics in Occupational Therapy	1-3
Curriculum total	76

Equine Assisted Therapy Certificate

This curriculum is designed to prepare students for employment in working with various age groups and disabilities utilizing equine assisted therapy. Students will become eligible to assist personnel who use equine assisted therapy in identifying general considerations for various diagnoses, populations and safety and ethics in working with people with disabilities utilizing this specialized approach. Program Prerequisite: HLTK 0950, HLTK 1620 or an equivalent CPR certification.

(Certificate Requirements)

HLTK 1410 Conditions and Symptomology	3
HLTK 1420 Equine Assisted Therapy Practicum	3
HLTK 1430 Therapeutic Applications	3
SOC 1000 Introduction to Sociology	3
For specific graduation requirements see "Academic Policies" and "Degree Requirements."	

Assistive Technology Certificate

This curriculum is designed to prepare students for employment in working with various age groups and disabilities who experience challenges in life skills and could benefit from Assistive Technology to maximize function and independence. Students will become eligible to assist personnel who incorporate Assistive Technology in identifying general considerations for various diagnoses, populations and safety and ethics in working with people with disabilities utilizing this specialized approach. Program Prerequisite: HLTK 0950, HLTK1620 or an equivalent CPR certification.

(Certificate Requirements)

HLTK 1405 Assistive Technology Practicum	3
HLTK 1410 Conditions and Symptomology	3
HLTK 1430 Therapeutic Applications	3
SOC 1000 Introduction to Sociology	3
For specific graduation requirements see "Academic Policies" and "Degree Requirements."	