

Occupational Therapy Assistant · Associate of Applied Science

Program Description

The OTA program prepares you for a career in helping others to improve their quality of life. You will learn to evaluate clients of all ages to overcome physical, emotional and mental challenges. Students will learn how to plan patient rehabilitative programs. In addition, students will learn to create goals, and help clients meet their goals while monitoring their progress.

The OTA program has a selective and limited admission policy. The application is available online at [Pueblo Community College OTA](#) from November 1 to March 1. All Health & Public Safety programs have essential functions to help you be successful in the program and career.

Note: You must undergo a background check and drug screen before we can officially admit you into the program. A felony, loss of license, administrative disciplinary proceeding for negligence, malpractice, recklessness, or willful or intentional misconduct may prohibit entrance into the program and/or eligibility to sit for licensure exams.

Career Information

You can work in hospitals, schools, mental health centers, skilled nursing facilities, and in the community. PCC graduates hold positions throughout Colorado and in many different states. The US Department of Labor projects that this will be one of the fastest-growing careers in the foreseeable future.

Total Program Credits – 69

General Education Sample Schedule (Recommended)

Option 1 – General education courses can be completed prior to applying to the program for additional application points. (Option 1 recommended).

Semester/Total Credits	Course	Course Titles	Credits
First – 9	ENG 121	English Composition	3
	PSY 101	General Psychology I	3
	ART 110, OR MUS 120, OR PHI 112	Art Appreciation OR , Music Appreciation OR , Ethics ¹	3
Second – 8	BIO 106	Basic Anatomy and Physiology	4
	HPR 178	Medical Terminology	1
	MAT 107	Career Math	3

¹ Additional Humanities courses are listed in the PCC catalog

Apply to the Program – November 1 – March 1

General Education courses may be taken prior to applying to the program (Option 1 - recommended) or while in the program (Option 2). Students receive additional application points for each successfully completed general education course by application deadline.

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OTA Program Course Schedule

Semester/Total Credits	Course	Program Course Titles	Credits
First Fall – 8	OTA 100	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	3
	OTA 105	Occupational Disruption and Activity Analysis	3
	OTA 106	Basic Occupational Therapy Frames of Reference & Documentation	2
First Spring - 13	OTA 121	Assessing Movement through Occupation	4
	OTA 122	Origins of Occupation and Performance from the Neonate to Adulthood	2
	OTA 125	Basic Occupational Therapy Application to Mental Health	4
	OTA 131	Geriatric Concerns, Diseases, and Treatment Techniques	3
First Summer – 3	OTA 181	Geriatric Level I Fieldwork Experience	1
	OTA 217	Occupational Therapy Rehabilitation Techniques	2
Second Fall - 15	OTA 182	Physical Disabilities Level I Fieldwork Experience	1
	OTA 183	Pediatric Level I Fieldwork Experience	1
	OTA 216	Physical Disabilities Neuro-Retraining	3
	OTA 218	Occupational Therapy Application to Adult Physical Disabilities	3
	OTA 221	Pediatric Concerns, Disabilities, and Treatment	3
	OTA 235	Professional Management for the OTA	2
Second Spring - 15	OTA 278	OTA Seminar	1
	OTA 280 ¹	Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy I	7
	OTA 281 ¹	Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy II	7

¹ OTA 280 & OTA 281 must be completed within 18 months of the didactic coursework.

Fill out Graduation Planning Sheets beginning of beginning of Second Spring Semester!

Graduation in May!!

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Option 2 – Completing general education courses as a part of the OTA program.

Semester/Total Credits	Course	Program Course Titles	Credits
First Fall – 18	BIO 106	Basic Anatomy and Physiology	4
	PSY 101	General Psychology I	3
	HPR 178	Medical Terminology	1
	OTA 100	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	3
	OTA 105	Occupational Disruption and Activity Analysis	3
	OTA 106	Basic Occupational Therapy Frames of Reference & Documentation	2
First Spring – 16	MAT 107	Career Math	3
	OTA 121	Assessing Movement through Occupation	4
	OTA 122	Origins of Occupation and Performance from the Neonate to Adulthood	2
	OTA 125	Basic Occupational Therapy Application to Mental Health	4
	OTA 131	Geriatric Concerns, Diseases, and Treatment Techniques	3
First Summer – 6	ENG 121	English Composition I	3
	OTA 181	Geriatric Level I Fieldwork Experience	1
	OTA 271	Occupational Therapy Rehabilitation Techniques	2
Second Fall – 16	OTA 216	Physical Disabilities Neuro-Retraining	3
	OTA 218	Occupational Therapy Application to Adult Physical Disabilities	3
	OTA 182	Physical Disabilities Level I Fieldwork Experience	1
	OTA 221	Pediatric Concerns, Disabilities, and Treatment	3
	OTA 183	Pediatric Level I Fieldwork Experience	1
	OTA 235	Professional Management for the OTA	2
	ART 110, <u>OR</u> MUS 120, <u>OR</u> PHI 112	Art Appreciation <u>OR</u> , Music Appreciation <u>OR</u> , Ethics ¹	3
	OTA 278	OTA Seminar	1
Second Spring – 15	OTA 280 ²	Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy I	7
	OTA 281 ²	Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy II	7

¹ Additional Humanities courses are listed in the PCC catalog

² OTA 280 & OTA 281 must be completed within 18 months of the didactic coursework.

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Course Descriptions

OTA 100

INTRODUCTION TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

3 CR. (3L)

Explores career options in occupational therapy through discussion, observation and participation. Identifies the need for areas of occupation and the differences between health, illness and wellness. Describes the history and philosophy of occupational therapy and the roles, responsibilities and relationships between other healthcare professionals. Discusses ethical and legal implications of health care and explores basic sociological issues.

OTA 105

OCCUPATIONAL DISRUPTION AND ACTIVITY ANALYSIS

3 CR. (1L/3 LBV)

PRQ: Admission into the OTA program. Explores the diseases and aspects of health and wellness common to occupational therapy intervention and occupational disruption and gains insight to various treatment methods and techniques as well as applying activity/task analysis.

OTA 106

BASIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FRAMES OF REFERENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

2 CR. (2L)

PRQ: Admission into the OTA program. Develops the ability to identify the types of occupational therapy documentation and practice basic documentation skills. Identifies models of practice, frames of reference and occupational therapy theories, founders, underlying assumptions of the theories, and implications to occupational therapy practice and treatment interventions.

OTA 121

ASSESSING MOVEMENT THROUGH OCCUPATION

4 CR. (2L/3 LBV)

PRQ: OTA 105, BIO 106. Provides communication strategies with clients and caregivers in an inter-professional setting. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how performance skills affect occupation and how assessments such as muscle movement, body mechanics, transfers, range of motion and manual muscle testing will influence rehabilitation.

OTA 122

ORIGINS OF OCCUPATION AND PERFORMANCE FROM THE NEONATE TO ADULTHOOD

2 CR. (2L)

PRQ: Admission into the OTA program. Explores the impact and influences of environment, community and various contexts of the client, focusing on a dynamic and ever changing occupational status through the influences of areas of occupation, contexts, performance patterns, client factors, performance skills, and activity demands from neonate through middle-age development.

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OTA 125

BASIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY APPLICATION TO MENTAL HEALTH

4 CR. (3L/1.5 LBV)

PRQ: OTA 106, PSY 101. Identifies commonly seen signs and symptoms of mental illness that affect health and wellness and learn methods of screening and various occupational therapy techniques for the assessment and treatment of occupational disruption within a variety of contexts. A Level I Fieldwork experience is integrated within this course.

OTA 131

GERIATRIC CONCERNS, DISEASES AND TREATMENT TECHNIQUES

3 CR. (2L/1.5 LBV)

PRQ: OTA 105 and OTA 106. Explores aging trends and the impact of context and environmental influences on the older individual, focusing on an ever-changing occupational status through the influences of client factors, activity demands, and performance skills and patterns. Identify geriatric diseases and conditions common to occupational therapy and discuss strategies and methods of intervention.

OTA 181

GERIATRIC LEVEL I FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

1 CR. (1.5 LBV)

PRQ: OTA 131. Identifies and provides practical experience in commonly seen disabilities, aspects of health and wellness, evaluation/assessment techniques, and methods for treatment for the geriatric population from diverse backgrounds in an inter-professional setting. Students will demonstrate universal precautions and safety standards in a variety of situations.

OTA 182

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES LEVEL I FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

1 CR. (1.5 LBV)

PRQ: OTA 218. Identify and provide practical experience with commonly seen disabilities, aspects of health and wellness, evaluation/assessment techniques, and methods of treatment intervention for conditions affecting adult clients from diverse backgrounds in collaboration with intra-professional and inter-professional team members.

OTA 183

PEDIATRIC LEVEL I FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

1 CR. (1.5 LBV)

CORQ: OTA 221. Provides the student with the practical experience necessary to identify commonly seen disabilities, aspects of health and wellness, evaluation/assessment techniques, and methods of treatment for the pediatric population from diverse backgrounds in collaboration with intra-professional and inter-professional team members.

OTA 216

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES NEURO-RETRAINING

3 CR. (2L/1.5 LBV)

PRQ: OTA 121. Provides skills necessary to utilize the occupational therapy treatment planning process, including age-appropriate assessments, treatment interventions and discharge planning within a client-centered and inter-professional context.

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OTA 217

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY REHABILITATION TECHNIQUES

2 CR. (3 LBV)

PRQ: OTA 121, OTA 105. Examines and demonstrates various treatment interventions and techniques based on aspects of health and wellness and physical/cognitive/psychosocial occupational disruption. The course focuses on adaptive equipment, assistive devices, areas of occupation and specialized physical disability assessments.

OTA 218

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY APPLICATION TO ADULT PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

3 CR. (1L/3 LBV)

PRQ: OTA 121. Provides students with the ability to identify commonly seen medical and orthopedic diseases and disabilities, aspects of health and wellness, and areas of occupational disruption. Students will learn treatment interventions within appropriate frames of reference through a variety of methodologies and will explore aspects of intervention including, but not limited to, splinting, transfers, positioning and communication techniques.

OTA 221

PEDIATRIC CONCERNS, DISEASES, DISABILITIES, AND TREATMENT

3 CR. (2L/1.5 LBV)

PRQ: OTA 121 and OTA 122. Explains the impact of environment, culture and community on the child. Focuses on an ever-changing occupational status through the influences of performance skills. Provides the skills necessary to identify commonly seen diseases and disabilities and treatment techniques used in pediatrics to promote health and wellness. Identifies occupational therapy evaluation/assessment techniques and methods of intervention within the context and environment of health care and the community.

OTA 235

PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE OTA

2 CR. (2L)

PRQ: Admission into the OTA program. Provides the student with the basic management skills needed as an occupational therapy assistant as well as provides an understanding of effective job seeking skills, the role of the OTA in research, professional responsibilities and lifelong learning.

OTA 278

OTA SEMINAR

1 CR. (1.5 LBV)

PRQ: OTA 280 or OTA 281. Provides the opportunity for discussion of Level II experiences and how to apply logical thinking, critical analysis and clinical reasoning strategies to future scenarios. Students will have discussions on continuing lifelong learning opportunities and professional responsibilities.

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OTA 280

FIELDWORK IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY I

7 CR. (21 INT)

PRQ: All OTA courses except OTA 278 and OTA 281. Provides an 8-week, full-time (or an equal amount of hours completed through part-time rotation), supervised fieldwork to develop professional behaviors consistent with the profession's standards and ethics and apply previously learned academic knowledge as an occupational therapy team member. Students will gain experience in the application of occupational therapy treatment process from admission to discharge for clients from a variety of sociocultural backgrounds and age levels in the practice area of physical disabilities to promote health and wellness.

OTA 281

FIELDWORK IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY II

7 CR. (21 INT)

PRQ: All OTA courses except OTA 278 and OTA 280. Provides an 8-week, full-time (or an equal amount of hours completed through part-time rotation), supervised fieldwork to develop professional behaviors consistent with the profession's standards and ethics and apply previously learned academic knowledge as an occupational therapy team member. Students will gain experience in the application of occupational therapy treatment process from admission to discharge for clients from a variety of sociocultural backgrounds and age levels in the practice area of behavioral/mental health, sensorimotor and/or developmental disabilities as well as promoting health and wellness.