

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Nashville State Community College, 120 White Bridge Rd, Nashville, TN 37209 • 615-353-3708

What is Occupational Therapy?

Skills for the Job of Living

Young or old, we all have a job to do—the job of living. Learning, Growing, playing, working, managing our homes, and caring for our families and for ourselves are among the “occupations” of life.

Sometimes physical, emotional, or other challenges prevent people from participating fully in the job of living. Stroke, injury, depression, and developmental disabilities, for example, can make it difficult for people to do everyday tasks or be as active and as independent as they would like.

Occupational Therapy—a vibrant, growing profession—makes it possible for people to regain independence and to enjoy life to its fullest. By choosing a career in Occupational Therapy, you will make a difference. You will improve the lives of children, adults, and the elderly alike. For more information visit www.aota.org

About Occupational Therapy Assistant Practitioners

An Occupational Therapy Assistant works under the direction of an Occupational Therapist in hospitals, school systems, nursing homes, psychiatric programs, rehabilitation centers, outpatient clinics, and in the community. Occupational Therapy Assistants have been trained to use “occupations” or activities of daily life to help people of all ages participate in their activities of choice to their fullest potential.

Admission and Program Requirements

Admissions Process

Applicants must be admitted to Nashville State Community College before applying to the OTA program.

Applicants must attend an information session prior to applying to the OTA program.

Application packets are available online and through our office beginning the first week of December. The application deadline is typically the first Monday in February. Check website for current details.

An application evaluation criterion, used for student interview selection, is published in the application packet.

Selected students are scheduled for group interviews during the Spring semester and applicants are notified by mid-May of each year regarding program acceptance.

If required, all Learning Support coursework and/or recommended ESOL coursework (waiver not accepted) must be completed prior to application.

Minimum GPA of 2.0 required 2.5 or higher preferred.

General Education Coursework

- **BIOL 2010 Anatomy and Physiology I** (with lab) must be completed with a grade of “C” or better no later than the summer before beginning OTA classes. Anatomy and Physiology must have been completed within five years before the Fall semester the student hopes to begin the OTA Program.
- **PSYC 1030 - General Psychology** must be completed no later than the first fall semester in the program.
- **Humanities elective:** Available courses: www.nsc.edu
- **Speech class** (SPCH 1010 or SPCH 1112), PSYC 2130 Lifespan Dev.
- **ENGL 1010 English Composition I**
- The Humanities elective, Speech, and English courses may be completed before beginning the program, or at any time during the first three program semesters. All courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better before students participate in the second year spring semester fieldwork experiences.

Knowledge of Computers: Students in the OTA Program must be able to use a computer. Required computer skills include email, accessing and using the “NS Online” course delivery system, creating documents and presentations, uploading and downloading information to and from the internet. All students must have access to a computer on a regular basis.

Special Information

Level II fieldwork experiences may be in a location outside the Middle Tennessee area, requiring the student to relocate for one (8 weeks) or both (16 week) experiences.

OTA courses are offered Monday–Friday, daytime only. Some courses may have web-based activities, but each semester schedule requires students to be on campus during the week. Class schedules will vary from semester to semester.

Level II fieldwork experiences are full-time, un-paid, mostly work-week internships. Some evening or weekend work may be required. Due to the level of student work required during these experiences, students should plan to not work other jobs their last semester in the program.

Criminal Background Check

Admitted students will be required to provide a copy of a background check. NSCC does not use the background check as criteria for admission to the program. Background checks are required by some clinical sites as a condition of participation. Students are required to participate in a variety of clinical experiences to successfully complete the program. If a student is unable to participate in clinical experiences due to the results of the criminal background check, he/she may not be able to complete the degree requirements and would not graduate from the program.

NBCOT Examination

Graduates of our program must successfully complete the NBCOT Examination before they are eligible for licensure in the State of Tennessee. All OTA licensure applicants must have a criminal background check completed before licensure will be granted. **A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.** If students have questions or concerns regarding criminal history and employment eligibility, please contact NBCOT at 301-990-7979 (www.nbcot.org) and the Tennessee Board of Occupational Therapy at 615-532-3202 or 800-778-4123.

Accreditation

The NSCC Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is accredited by Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education

ACOTE

% Accreditation Department
American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
4720 Montgomery Lane, STE 200
Bethesda, MD 20814

Phone: 301-652-2682
Fax: 301-652-7711
TDD: 800-377-8555

www.aota.org

<https://acoteonline.org>

Email: accred@aota.org

For more information contact:

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

Phone: 615-353-3708

Fax: 615-353-3608

Email: jenny.heath@nsc.edu or ota@nsc.edu

www.nsc.edu/occupational-therapy-assistant

Program Director

Piper Sesnan, OTD, OTR

Faculty

Cindy Morgan, OTR

Courses to Consider

While not required, the following courses may enhance your Occupational Therapy education.

BIOL 1000 Medical Terminology

BIOL 1006 First Aid and CPR

CIS 1010 Intro to Information Tech

ENGL 2000 Grammar Express

HCM 2000 Healthcare Delivery Systems

PSYC 2130 Life Span Psychology

SPAN 1010 Spanish I

Occupational Therapy
Assistant Program

