

AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION (AOTA)

All students are required to maintain current, individual membership in AOTA. AOTA materials, available only to members, are used extensively throughout the NSCC OTA Program.

The American Occupational Therapy Association is a national professional society established in 1917 to represent the interests and concerns of occupational therapy practitioners and to improve the quality of occupational therapy services.

Occupational Therapy is a vital health care service whose practitioners help to restore and sustain the highest quality of productive life to persons recovering from illness or injuries, or coping with developmental disabilities or changes resulting from the aging process.

Current AOTA membership numbers more than 44,000, including registered occupational therapists (OTRs), certified occupational therapy assistants (COTAs), and occupational therapy students. Members reside in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 65 foreign countries. AOTA's major programs and activities are directed toward:

ASSURING THE QUALITY OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES

- Accreditation. Since 1935 AOTA has accredited occupational therapy education programs in collaboration with the American Medical Association. To apply for certification or licensure in occupational therapy, one must be a graduate of one of the 69 occupational therapist education programs or the 67 occupational therapy assistant programs throughout the country.
- Quality Control. AOTA sets standards for occupational therapy practice and helps members develop skills to monitor and improve the quality of care.
- Research. In cooperation with the American Occupational Therapy Foundation, AOTA supports and encourages research that examines the effects of occupational therapy services and tests new theories and techniques.
- Improving Consumer Access to Health Care Services
- Communication. AOTA delivers expert testimony on health care issues to Congress, state legislatures and the courts. The Association also works with other organizations to improve access to services through state and federal legislation and through business and industry insurance programs. AOTA distributes information on health care issues and occupational therapy services to lawmakers, insurance providers, other health practitioners, the press and the public.
- Promoting the Professional Development of Members
- Continuing Education. AOTA provides continuing educational programs, publications, audiovisual materials and information on new and traditional areas of practice.

- Publications. AOTA houses a comprehensive library of occupational therapy materials and publishes the American Journal of Occupational Therapy, the Occupational Therapy News, seven practice Special Interest Section Newsletters, The Federal Report legislative newsletter, and OT Week, a weekly employment bulletin.
- Practice Information. AOTA offers its members a wide range of practice information and consultation through staff experts and a large volunteer resource network.
- Benefits. Other member services include employment assistance, financial benefits and scholarships, insurance programs, awards and recognitions.