



## Occupational Therapy Assistant

### Industry Description

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 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'd 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, young people, and adults alike.

Occupational therapy assistants work with the supervision of registered occupational therapists to provide hands-on services to children and adults who are learning new ways to succeed in the occupations of life. Students today can look forward to dynamic careers working in varied settings with people of all ages. Many practitioners help children thrive in the “occupations” of childhood – learning, playing, and growing. Some work in schools with students who have learning disabilities or behavioral problems. Others work with children who have cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, and other disabilities.

Practitioners also work with individuals in their homes, community centers, rehabilitation hospitals, and nursing homes. In these settings, they may support people with traumatic injuries, strokes, Alzheimer's disease, or mental health problems.

Minnesota Law requires that any person who provides services that involve direct contact with patients and residents at a health care facility licensed by the [Minnesota Department of Health](#) have a background study conducted by the state. An individual who is disqualified from having direct patient contact as a result of the background study, and whose disqualification is not set aside by the Commissioner of Health, will not be permitted to participate in a clinical placement in a Minnesota licensed health care facility. The College will withdraw any student from the program who is disqualified by the Minnesota Department of Health. The student is responsible for requesting the Commissioner to reconsider the disqualification.

### Wages /Outlook/Advancement Opportunities

Wage information is available from the Minnesota Department of Education and the [Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development](#). Occupational therapy assistants may become occupational therapists. Assistants must get a master's degree to become a therapist.

### Program Description

Occupational therapy assistants earn a two-year associates degree. Course work includes a combination of general education courses, occupational therapy theory and skill building courses, and on-the-job experiences at various fieldwork sites. Students must provide their own transportation to and from the fieldwork sites. All academic coursework must be completed before students are placed on their Level 2 fieldwork experience. The Level 2 fieldwork must be completed within 12 months of completing the required coursework. Enrollment in the fieldwork classes may be limited due to the availability of fieldwork sites.

The 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, phone (301) 652-AOTA or (301) 652-2682.

Graduates of the program will be eligible 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 the 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. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification exam or attain state licensure.

**IMPORTANT** ACCUPLACER Test Requirement: ACCUPLACER testing in math, reading and writing. Any needed developmental courses must be completed before receiving a diploma or an A.A.S. award.

### **Program Prerequisites**

1. A score of 86 or higher in sentence skills on the new student assessment within the past year OR successful completion with a grade of C or better in Basic English 0101 within the past year.
2. A score of 78 or higher in Reading Comprehension on the new student assessment within the past year OR successful completion with a grade of C or better in Basic Reading 0900 within the past year.

### **Other Program Requirements**

Regarding test scores on the arithmetic skills portion of the new student assessment:

Prior to being placed at their Level 1 Fieldwork site, a score of 71 or higher in Arithmetic Skills on the new student assessment within the past year OR successful completion with a grade of C or better in Basic Math 0801 within the past year.

### **Length of Program**

Associate of Applied Science 71 credits

[Course Sequencing Plan](#)

### **Start Dates**

Fall Semester August

### **Program Contact**

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For information on how to apply, how to schedule a campus tour, contact the [Admissions Office](#)

Phone (763) 576-4850

E-mail [info@anokatech.edu](mailto:info@anokatech.edu)

