

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT: AAS

Associate in Applied Science | 73 credit hours minimum

Area of Interest: Health Professions

Program Website (<https://stlcc.edu/programs-academics/pathways/health-professions/occupational-therapy-assistant/>)

Academic Advising (<https://stlcc.edu/admissions/advising/>)

Program Description:

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, Associate in Applied Science, prepares students for positions as occupational therapy practitioners who work under the supervision of registered occupational therapists. Through courses in the development, structure and function of the human body, psychology and occupational therapy principles and techniques, along with clinical experience, students learn skills in communicating, interviewing, assessing, intervention planning, and implementation of interventions for consumers of occupational therapy services.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)

7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E

Bethesda, MD 20814

Telephone: 301-652-6611 or Website: www.acoteonline.org (<https://acoteonline.org/>)

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). All states require licensure in order to practice; however, acquisition of state licenses are typically based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Please be aware that a felony conviction could impact a student's ability to participate in fieldwork experiences, ability to take the certification exam, and/or obtain a license to practice occupational therapy. See OTA Program Director for more information.

Note: All OTA students must complete Level II Fieldwork within 18 months following completion of academic coursework.

The OTA program is a selective admission, college-level program. Students must have successfully completed specific requirements prior to application, including:

- having high school or college cumulative grade point average of 2.5
- having minimum placement test scores or successful completion of the following courses:

Math Proficiency: Complete ONE of the following prior to application to the program:

- Math ACT score of 19 or higher OR SAT math score of 500 or higher (within the last 3 years)
- Place into MTH 140 higher on the Accuplacer (Next Gen) (within the last 3 years)
- Completion of courses: MTH 140 or MTH 140S or higher-level math with a "C" or higher

English Proficiency: Complete ONE of the following prior to application to the program:

- English ACT score of 18 or higher OR SAT EBRW score of 500 or higher (within the last 3 years)
- Accuplacer (Next Gen) score of 250 or higher (within the last 3 years) OR high school GPA of 2.6 or higher
- Placement into ENG 101

Reading Proficiency: Complete ONE of the following prior to application to the program:

- Reading ACT score of 18 or higher OR SAT EBRW score of 500 or higher (within the last 3 years)
- Accuplacer (Next Gen) score of 250 or higher on the Reading Portion (within the last 3 years)
- Demonstrate college-level reading competency.

Biology:

- A&P I (BIO 207) must be completed with a "C" or higher within the last 5 years from application to the program.
 - Prerequisite: BIO 111 or BIO 140 or CHM 101 with a minimum grade of "C", or college level course equivalent, and Reading Proficiency.

Psychology:

- General Psychology (PSY 200) must be completed with a "C" or higher within 5 years from application to the program.

Locations. This program is offered in its entirety at Forest Park.

Licensure. This program meets the educational requirements for state licensure in the following states: Missouri and Illinois. Students interested in pursuing licensure in a different state should contact the program coordinator for more information.

Cost of Attendance. For more information on cost of attendance visit **MoSCORES** (<https://scorecard.mo.gov/Search/>).

Program Career and Salary Information. Pursuant to Missouri HB 1606 (2018), information regarding the number of credit hours, program length, employment rate, wage data, and graduates employed in careers related to their program of study at St. Louis Community College can be found at the following URL: [https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/](https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/(https://www.google.com/url?q=https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/&sa=D&ust=155536894857000&usg=AFQjCNG1xf3E_j2lO96zEytILO-s5xaJCQ)) (https://www.google.com/url?q=https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/&sa=D&ust=155536894857000&usg=AFQjCNG1xf3E_j2lO96zEytILO-s5xaJCQ). Search using School / Program "St. Louis Community College" and choose the degree or credential type of interest.

The following limitations to the data apply: Information provided is based on the most recent cohorts available. Typically, most recent cohorts for wage and completion data are six years prior to the current academic year. Time to complete a program of study varies depending on the number of credit hours students earn per semester.

Interested in this program? Start the enrollment process by visiting the **Apply to STLCC** (<https://www.stlcc.edu/admissions/apply-to-stlcc/>) page.

At the completion of the program, students are expected to:

1. articulate the distinct nature of occupational therapy and the roles of occupational therapy assistants within the occupational therapy process.

2. describe how participating in life's occupations promotes health and wellness and illness prevention.
3. explain how choice of occupation and participating in occupation are influenced by age, ethnicity, disease, culture, lifestyle, economic status, and physical, social, and policy environments.
4. apply awareness of self through respect, empathy, and cultural humility during the occupational therapy process.
5. contribute to the occupational therapy process through obtaining relevant client information and demonstrating competence in select assessments under the direction of an occupational therapist.
6. implement intervention strategies across the lifespan and care continuum that include strategies in restoration, modification, maintenance, prevention, and health promotion to participate in occupation.
7. advocate to support client needs, practitioner needs, and the profession's needs.
8. engage openly and professionally in the supervisory relationship with occupational therapists, occupational therapy aides, and volunteers.
9. exhibit ethical and professional conduct in accordance with the core values and code of ethics established by the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Program of Study

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Pre-Entry Requirements		
PSY 200	General Psychology (MOTR PSYC 100)	3
BIO 207	Anatomy and Physiology I (MOTR LIFS 150LAP)	4
BIO 111	Introductory Biology I (MOTR BIOL 100L)	4-5
or BIO 140	Principles of Biology I (MOTR BIOL 150L)	
or CHM 101	Fundamentals of Chemistry I (MOTR CHEM 100L)	
General Education		
COM 101	Oral Communication I (MOTR COMM 100) ¹	3
or COM 107	Public Speaking (MOTR COMM 110)	
ENG 101	College Composition I (MOTR ENGL 100)	3
or ENG 102	College Composition II (MOTR ENGL 200)	
PSY 205	Human Growth and Development (MOTR PSYC 200)	3
BIO 208	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
XXX xxx	Social & Behavioral Sciences: Civics Requirement	3
Program Requirements		
OTA 101	Fundamentals of Occupational Therapy	3
OTA 103	The Occupational Therapy Process	2
OTA 102	Occupational Therapy in Psychosocial Settings and the Community	4
OTA 104	Occupational Therapy in Rehabilitation I	2
OTA 110	Kinesiology Fundamentals for Occupational Therapy Practice	3
OTA 120	Occupation and Society	3
OTA 207	Health Promotion and Disease Process	4
OTA 203	Occupational Therapy in Rehabilitation II	4
OTA 204	Occupational Therapy for Children and Youth	4
OTA 208	Intervention Strategies for Physical Dysfunction	2
OTA 215	The Management of Occupational Therapy	2
OTA 216	Seminar in Occupational Therapy Practice	1
OTA 220	Fieldwork Level 2A	6

OTA 221 Fieldwork Level 2B

6

Total Credit Hours

73-74

¹ COM 101 is preferred.

Admission and Requirements

We admit up to 24 students every fall. Admission to the OTA program is on a first-come, first-served basis for those students who meet the minimum academic and other requirements. In order to facilitate the entry of students in the available spaces, a waiting list is used. A student is placed on the waiting list once program application prerequisites have been met and a program application has been submitted. Placement on the waiting list is based solely on the date of application. Students will be sent a letter each fall while on the list asking for their intentions to pursue admission to the program. Failure to respond to this letter by the deadline will result in removal from the list. Letters will be sent in the spring to those being offered admission to the program in the fall semester. All those receiving letters must attend a mandatory program orientation in May.

The OTA program is a selective admission, college-level program. Students must have successfully completed specific requirements prior to application, including:

- high school or college cumulative grade point average of 2.5
- minimum placement test scores or successful completion of specific courses
- successful completion of BIO 207 - Anatomy and Physiology I with a "C" or higher within the last five years (beginning Aug. 1, 2020)
- successful completion of PSY 200 - General Psychology with a "C" or higher within the last five years (beginning Aug. 1, 2020)

Students must complete the appropriate pre-entry courses before enrolling in the required general education, biology, and OTA courses.

Once accepted to the OTA Program, there will be a mandatory orientation during the first part of May.

All OTA students must complete Level II fieldwork within 18 months following completion of academic coursework.

Please Note: Credits earned in STLCC's OTA AAS program generally do not transfer to occupational therapy master's degree programs. The curriculum for an OTA degree is distinctly different from the curriculum for an OT degree. OTA focuses on technical skills and knowledge, while the OT degree emphasizes theory, research, and management. In addition, the OT degree is an entry-level master's degree. In most cases, a student would need to complete a bachelor's degree before beginning an OT degree program.

Retention Policy

Students must earn a "C" (74%) or above in all OTA and Biology courses and maintain an overall G.P.A. of at least 2.0 (C).

Students receiving a "D" or below 74% in OTA or Biology courses must repeat these courses. **Only one repeat is allowed.** The student may not enroll in a course more than two times without an appeal to the Selection and Retention committee. If repeating these courses puts a student out of the program sequence, the student will be able to continue at a later date only **if space is available.**

No OTA course may be repeated more than once, or enrolled in more than twice without review by the retention committee.

Students may only repeat/re-enroll in OTA courses on a *space available basis*.

More information regarding specific classroom and fieldwork education grading policies is available in the student handbook which is distributed at orientation.

OTA Program Admissions Requirements (<https://stlcc.edu/pathways/health/occupational-therapy-assistant/requirements-checklist.aspx>)

Academic Plan

Missouri Civics Examination. Students entering college for the very first time in fall 2019 and who intend to complete an associate's degree must successfully complete a civics examination. **Information on who is eligible for a waiver can be found on the STLCC website** (<https://stlcc.edu/programs-academics/missouri-civics-exam.aspx>).

PLEASE NOTE: If you originally enrolled at STLCC prior to Fall 2025, you may need to view an **archived catalog** (<http://catalog.stlcc.edu/archived-catalogs/>) for your correct program requirements. Please speak with an advisor or the program coordinator for more information.

Courses to be completed prior to beginning program:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
BIO 111 or BIO 140 or CHM 101	Introductory Biology I (MOTR BIOL 100L) Principles of Biology I (MOTR BIOL 150L) Fundamentals of Chemistry I (MOTR CHEM 100L)	4-5
BIO 207	Anatomy and Physiology I (MOTR LIFS 150LAP)	4
PSY 200	General Psychology (MOTR PSYC 100)	3
Total Credit Hours		11-12

Code	Title	Hours	Prerequisites	Milestones/Notes
First Year				
Fall				
ENG 101 or 102	College Composition I (MOTR ENGL 100) or College Composition II (MOTR ENGL 200)	3	Placement score or ENG 030 or ENG 070 with a grade of "C" or better or recommendation of department and Reading Proficiency or concurrent enrollment in RDG 079	
PSY 205	Human Growth and Development (MOTR PSYC 200)	3	PSY 200 with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
OTA 101	Fundamentals of Occupational Therapy	3	Admission to the OTA program and Reading Proficiency	Exploratory Course
OTA 103	The Occupational Therapy Process	2	Admission to the OTA program and Reading Proficiency	Exploratory Course
OTA 110	Kinesiology Fundamentals for Occupational Therapy Practice	3	Admission to the OTA program and Reading Proficiency	Critical Course
	Credit Hours	14		
Spring				
BIO 208	Anatomy and Physiology II	4	BIO 207 with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
OTA 102	Occupational Therapy in Psychosocial Settings and the Community	4	OTA 101, OTA 103, OTA 110, PSY 205, all with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	Gateway Course
OTA 104	Occupational Therapy in Rehabilitation I	2	OTA 101, OTA 103, OTA 110, PSY 205, all with a minimum grade of "C", and Reading Proficiency	Gateway Course
OTA 120	Occupation and Society	3	OTA 101, OTA 103, and OTA 110 with minimum grades of "C" and Reading Proficiency	Request degree audit.
OTA 207	Health Promotion and Disease Process	4	OTA 101, OTA 103, OTA 110, PSY 205, with minimum grades of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
	Credit Hours	17		

Summer				
COM 101 or 107	Oral Communication I (MOTR COMM 100) or Public Speaking (MOTR COMM 110)	3	Concurrent enrollment in ENG 070 or Reading Proficiency	COM 101 is preferred.
XXX xxx	Social & Behavioral Sciences: Civics Requirement (http://catalog.stlcc.edu/general-education/)	3		
	Credit Hours	6		
Second Year				
Fall				
OTA 203	Occupational Therapy in Rehabilitation II	4	OTA 102, OTA 104, OTA 207, BIO 208, and OTA 120 with minimum grades of "C", and Reading Proficiency	
OTA 204	Occupational Therapy for Children and Youth	4	OTA 102, OTA 104, OTA 207, OTA 120, BIO 208 with minimum grades of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
OTA 208	Intervention Strategies for Physical Dysfunction	2	BIO 208, OTA 102, OTA 104, OTA 207, OTA 120 with minimum grades of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
OTA 215	The Management of Occupational Therapy	2	OTA 102, OTA 104, OTA 207, OTA 120, and BIO 208 with minimum grades of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
	Credit Hours	12		
Spring				
OTA 216	Seminar in Occupational Therapy Practice	1	OTA 203, OTA 204, OTA 208, and OTA 215 with minimum grades of "C", and Reading Proficiency	
OTA 220	Fieldwork Level 2A	6	OTA 203, OTA 204, OTA 208, OTA 215, all with a minimum grade of "C", and Reading Proficiency	Full-time 8-week fieldwork
OTA 221	Fieldwork Level 2B	6	OTA 220 with a grade of "S" and Reading Proficiency	Full-time 8-week fieldwork
	Credit Hours	13		
	Total Credit Hours	62		

Critical Courses: Critical courses are most important to a student's declared major and most strongly predict later success in the major. A critical course requires a minimal grade to progress to higher-level courses.

Exploratory Courses: Exploratory courses are first-semester courses that introduce the program and career field.

Gateway Courses: Gateway courses are courses in many career pathways that must be completed before progression in higher-level courses. These may be the same as critical and/or exploratory courses.

*Click on the hyperlinked course number to view additional information about the course.

**Students completing a course that has been assigned a MOTR number may transfer that course to any public institution in Missouri. Those who complete CORE 42 requirements will have that verification on their transcript.

*** It is your responsibility to verify that the courses listed above will transfer to the four-year institution of your choice. Maximize your transfer credits/classes by meeting with an academic advisor.