

MURRAY

STATE COLLEGE

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MSC OTA program prepares students to enter the profession of Occupational Therapy by becoming Occupational Therapy Assistants. Upon successful completion of the program, students are eligible to take the National Board Certification Occupational Therapy Examination. Upon successful passage of this examination, graduates are eligible to apply for license as a OTA. The OTA works under the supervision of and in collaboration with Occupational Therapist to help others engage in the job of living. There are many “occupations” of daily life include learning, growing, playing, working, managing our homes, and caring for our families. Occupational Therapy enables people of all ages to enhance their participation in these important activities of daily life in order to **"Live Life to Its Fullest!"** A career as an occupational therapy assistant offers a wide variety of opportunities to improve the lives of people of all ages.

The OTA program awards the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree to graduates. The Murray State College OTA program is designed so that students complete general education prerequisite course work prior to applying to the specialized year and a half of program. Students interested in applying for the specialized portion of the program begin taking the 34 credit hours of general education prerequisites to prepare for entrance into the second or specialized year of the program consisting of sixteen months of full time OTA study and supervised clinical fieldwork. The second year includes the OTA program specific courses which are only available to students who have been accepted through the OTA admissions process that occurs in the spring of each year (see Admission Information link). Students do not need to apply to the OTA program to take the 1st year general education courses.

Faculty

Jayne Campanini, OTD, OTR/L – Program Director

Gina Hatfield, MOT, OTR/L– Instructor & Academic Fieldwork Coordinator

Tanya Bearden, OTR/L – Instructor & SOTA Advisor

Sarah Blankenship, COTA/L-Instructor

The program director and instructors are nationally certified and state licensed occupational therapy providers with varied clinical backgrounds and experience with the academic and clinical education of OT students.

Program Mission Statement

The Murray State College OTA program prepares competent Occupational Therapy Assistants who support participation in daily life pursuits to improve the quality of life and health of clients in south-central Oklahoma.

The program is designed to prepare graduates to be effective providers of occupational therapy services within a healthcare team and under the direction of an occupational therapist and to act as responsible members of the profession.

Graduates of the OTA program will . . .

1. Demonstrate the ability to think creatively and critically;
2. Clarify and uphold the ethics, attitudes and values of the profession;
3. Use effective communication skills; and

4. Apply occupational therapy interventions based on current occupational therapy principles and best practice.

The A.A.S. degree program graduates will be prepared to take the nationally prepared certification examination through the National Board Certification for Occupational Therapy (NBCOT; www.nbcot.org). Following successful completion of the certification examination, the graduate may enter the profession of occupational therapy and provide client-centered occupational therapy services under the direction and supervision of a qualified occupational therapist. At Murray State College, the Occupational Therapy Assistant program prepares the student, “to delivers occupational therapy services under the supervision of and in partnership with the occupational therapist.” (AOTA, 2014) and to uphold the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics, core values and standards of conduct of occupational therapy practice (AOTA, 2015).

Effective occupational therapy service delivery involves a cooperative relationship between the supervising occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant using a client-centered approach with the person served and their family. The graduate will articulate the role and responsibility of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant in the supervisory process and be prepared to uphold the ethics, standards, values, and attitudes of the occupational therapy profession.

For further information about the OTA program at Murray State College, contact the program office.

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References

American Occupational Therapy Association (2015). Occupational therapy code of ethics and ethics standards. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 69

American Occupational Therapy Association. (2014). Guidelines for supervision, roles, and responsibilities during the delivery of occupational therapy services. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 68

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