



# McLennan Community College Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

## FACTS

Planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.

### PURPOSE STATEMENT

The primary purpose of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is to prepare students to function as effective entry-level Licensed Occupational Therapy Assistants. This purpose is accomplished through a combination of sequential learning activities based upon a sound general educational framework and guided fieldwork experiences. The program seeks to develop occupational therapy assistants who possess foundational skills in occupational therapy interventions, clinical reasoning, and interpersonal communication necessary for the practice of science-driven, evidence-based occupational therapy.

### CURRICULUM

The OTA program is a two-year associate degree program consisting of 7 academic courses and 17 OTA courses. All **academic courses may be taken before admission into the program.** The OTA courses are lock step and will take 6 semesters to complete. Additional information related to the curriculum may be found in the McLennan General Catalog.

### **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT COURSES**

OTHA 1305 Principles of Occupational Therapy  
OTHA 1341 Occupational Performance Birth through Adolescence  
OTHA 2211 Abnormal Psychology in Occupational Therapy  
OTHA 1315 Therapeutic Use of Occupation or Activities I  
OTHA 1309 Human Structure & Function in Occupational Therapy  
OTHA 1161 Clinical I  
OTHA 2302 Therapeutic Use of Occupation or Activities II  
OTHA 2201 Pathophysiology in Occupational Therapy  
OTHA 2209 Mental Health in Occupational Therapy  
OTHA 1319 Therapeutic Interventions  
OTHA 2231 Physical Function in Occupational Therapy  
OTHA 1162 Clinical II  
OTHA 1253 Occupational Performance for Elders  
OTHA 2235 Healthcare Management  
OTHA 2230 Workplace Skills for the OTA (via Distance Education)  
OTHA 2266 Fieldwork Experience – OTA  
OTHA 2267 Fieldwork Experience – OTA

### **CLINICAL ROTATIONS**

All students must complete two, eight week long, full-time clinical rotations during the last semester of the program. At least one full-time clinical affiliation will be a travel rotation - defined as at least 60 miles from McLennan Community College.

### APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

#### **APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 30<sup>th</sup>**

The program will begin in the spring semester of each year. All applicants must submit a new application packet for each year they wish to apply. *Incomplete applications will not be considered for admission into the OTA program.* Applications must be received in our office no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 30 and must be mailed or hand delivered. *Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.*

#### **Hand submit or mail application materials to:**

OTA Program  
CSC Bldg.; Room C116  
McLennan Community College  
1400 College Drive  
Waco, Texas 76708

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Minimum requirements that must be met by the application deadline to be eligible for consideration:

- Applicants must be  $\geq 18$  years old and be a high school graduate (or equivalent)
- Applicants must be TSI Complete; English proficient (Minimum TOEFL score  $\geq 83$  ( $\geq 20$  in each area, if applicable))
- Minimum grade of "C" in all prerequisite and co-requisites plus minimum GPA 2.5 in prerequisite and co-requisite courses
- Verification of 40 hours of volunteer/observation or work experience in two different occupational therapy settings (20 hours in each setting) using the OTA Occupational Therapy Experience Form
- Two completed OTA Basic Workplace Skills Assessment Forms (one from an OT or OTA; the other from an employer, supervisor, teacher, etc.)

Program admission is competitive. Typically, applicants must exceed minimum requirements to be accepted.

### **PREREQUISITE COURSES**

- BIOL 2401 Anatomy & Physiology I (within 5 years)
- PSYC 2301 General Psychology
- PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth and Development
- ENGL 1301 Composition I
- HPRS 1206 Medical Terminology

### **CO-REQUISITE COURSES**

- BIOL 2402 Anatomy & Physiology II (within 5 years)
- 3-credit hour Humanities

*Accreditation: 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, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is 301.652.6611 and Web address is [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org).*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

In support of the College Mission statement, the OTA program joins McLennan in the endeavor to “engage and strengthen the community” by educating and training competent entry-level occupational therapy assistants who will provide top quality therapy services to diverse populations in various types of healthcare and community settings. The Occupational Therapy Assistant program is dedicated to providing a high quality, dynamic, educational curriculum to prepare highly competent occupational therapy assistants who are skilled at meeting the needs of consumers from diverse backgrounds and rapidly changing service delivery systems.

## **PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL GOALS**

- Demonstrate high level, entry-level knowledge and performance competencies of the occupational therapy assistant that reflect the philosophy of occupational therapy, and that are well-grounded in the theoretical principles, technology, and standards of practice of occupational therapy.
- Collaborate with occupational therapists in providing high quality therapy services to diverse populations, across the lifespan, within the variety of practice contexts, both traditional and emerging practices, in accordance with the standards of practice and the credentialing and licensing bodies.
- Advocate and promote occupational therapy services with respect for each person’s inherent dignity, occupational nature, diversity, and right to quality of life.
- Demonstrate active, responsible therapeutic conduct in accordance with the profession’s educational, legal, and ethical standards of practice.
- Demonstrate civic engagement and professional responsibility for service to communities and populations that are underserved and would benefit from the philosophy, knowledge, and skills of occupational therapy.
- Participate in effective service management and the development and marketing of occupational therapy services for diverse populations and settings.
- Demonstrate effective problem solving and clinical reasoning (critical thinking) skills as valued parts of professional competency.
- Assist in developing, designing, adapting, and maintaining environments that support consumers’ engagement in occupation.
- Effectively utilize professional written and oral communication in client, family, and team interactions while meeting the standards for reimbursement of services.
- Demonstrate knowledge of national requirements for certification and state requirements for licensure to practice.
- Actively and effectively promote the profession of occupational therapy.
- Actively seek activities that promote personal and professional growth through lifelong learning.

## **ADVISING & DEGREE PLANNING**

For individual degree plan evaluation or advising contact:

**Carol Zaricor, OTD**

(254) 299-8525, or email [czaricor@mclennan.edu](mailto:czaricor@mclennan.edu)



## **ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE**

The OTA program provides the basic knowledge and skill required of an entry-level occupational therapy assistant entering the workforce. Upon satisfactory completion of this curriculum, the student will be awarded an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree. This degree is awarded to students who complete a minimum of 60 hours of college work in one of McLennan’s workforce programs, including at least 15 hours of general education credit according to the requirements posted in the current McLennan catalog.

Upon graduation from an ACOTE accredited OTA program, the graduate will be eligible to become a licensed occupational therapy assistant by successfully passing the national certification examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). The state of Texas also requires the OTA to be licensed by the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE). There are applicable fees associated with both the application for NBCOT examination and application for TBOTE licensure. The OTA will practice under the supervision of a licensed Occupational Therapist.

## **IMMUNIZATION, CPR, and OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- Proof of immunization against Hepatitis B (series of three), varicella (two shots or proof of titer), MMR (two shots or proof of titer), Tdap, and current season influenza.
- Two Tuberculosis skin tests within the past year or within one week of each other or chest x-ray.
- Students are required to maintain adult, child, and infant American Heart Association Healthcare Provider Basic Life Support certification throughout the program.
- Costs for immunizations, x-rays, and Basic Life Support will be the responsibility of the student.
- Proof of health insurance coverage

## **DRUG SCREEN AND BACKGROUND CHECK**

- Students are required to undergo drug screens and receive a negative result within 30 days prior to beginning the Program and thereafter as requested.
- Students are required to undergo a criminal background check (minimum of Texas wide) before starting the Program and thereafter as requested.
- Failure to comply with requirements, or positive results, may result in non-admission or withdrawal from the program.
- Proof of drug screen results and background check does not guarantee acceptance into the program.

*For students in Health Professions programs who may have a criminal background, please be advised that the background could keep you from being licensed by the State of Texas. If you have a question about your background and licensure, please speak with your faculty member or program director. You also have the right to request a criminal history evaluation letter from the applicable licensing agency.*

## **INFORMATION SESSIONS**

***Prospective students should attend a general information session well in advance of applying to the program.*** These sessions provide an in-depth look at the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program as well as the profession itself. Dates are posted on the OTA web page.