

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT AAS

THE PROGRAM

Upon completion of the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program, the graduate will earn an Associate in Applied Science degree and will be prepared as an entry-level OTA.

Program coursework consists of general education classes focusing on biology, English, the social sciences and OTA professional classes. The OTA program incorporates use of classroom, laboratory and fieldwork experiences toward the development of the therapeutic skills and professional behaviors necessary for effective practice.

Note: OTA professional classes are offered only on the Fulton campus. Other required courses may be taken on either campus or online. The program admits students every fall.

PROGRAM 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 : 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its Web address is www.acoteonline.org. 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 this exam, the individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Schools • Hospitals
- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Community Agencies
- Private Homes

2019 Median Salary

\$61,510/yr

*United States Department of Labor

[www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/
occupational-therapy-assistants-and-
aides.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapy-assistants-and-aides.htm)

A CAREER IN OTA

Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) use purposeful activities to help individuals of all ages gain the skills to perform the everyday things that they need and want to do. OTAs work with individuals who are experiencing limitations as a result of physical injury, illness, developmental disability, the aging process, or psychological or social issues. The demand for qualified OTAs is growing at a fast pace.

As an OTA you can expect to work directly with individuals and groups from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds by providing services that might include:

- Helping children with developmental delays improve fine motor coordination and socialization
- Assisting patients to regain daily living skills after hip replacement or stroke
- Teaching patients to use adaptive equipment to promote safety and independence upon discharge from the hospital
- Modifying work environments and establishing graded return to work programs for individuals who have experienced injuries
- Teaching stress management and coping strategies for clients overcoming mental health issues



ADMISSIONS OFFICE
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1-866-598-8883
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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

New full- and part-time students seeking admission to the OTA program must file both a Cayuga Community College Admissions application and an application to the OTA program. Preadmission requirements pertaining to medical or disabling conditions are prohibited by regulation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. For students with documented functional limitations, reasonable accommodations will be made through Cayuga's Office of Accessibility Resources.

OTA courses are offered one time per year and must be taken in sequence starting in the fall semester.

The following chemistry or physics prerequisite must be completed prior to admission to the OTA program.

Applications will be considered for students who are currently enrolled in one of the courses listed below by April 15. Students will be required to provide evidence of a satisfactory midterm grade (grade C, 73% or higher) in order to be considered for admission to the OTA program. Admission to the OTA program will be dependent upon successful completion of one of the following courses and upon space availability in the program.

- High school chemistry with a lab grade C, 73% or higher
- College chemistry with a lab (Cayuga's CHEM 101, CHEM 103 or equivalent course) grade C, 73% or higher
- Nursing ABC Chemistry grade C, 73% or higher
- High school physics with a lab grade C, 73% or higher
- College physics with a lab (Cayuga's PHYS 103, PHYS 104 or equivalent course) grade C, 73% or higher

ADMISSION PROCESS

Admission to the OTA program is selective. Attendance at an OTA information session is highly encouraged. Dates and locations for information sessions will be made available at www.cayuga-cc.edu/academics/schools/health-sciences/occupational-therapy-assistant.

- Must complete and submit a Cayuga Admission Application and an OTA program application, including official transcripts by the April 15 deadline
- ATI TEAS allied health entrance exam must be completed by the April 15 deadline
- Two professional references must be submitted to OTA program director by the April 15 deadline
- Applicants not accepted must reapply to be considered for admission the following year

The following pre-requisites must be completed before applying to the OTA program:

- Official high school transcript or official general equivalency diploma (GED/TASC)
- High school average of B (80%) or higher OR cumulative college GPA 2.5 or higher
- Applicants who possess a GED/TASC will be accepted into the Liberal Arts and Sciences: Math and Science major until a college grade point average (GPA) is established. Once a GPA has been established, students can then apply to the OTA program.
- English Language Proficiency as demonstrated by compliance with minimum required TOEFL score, required if English is not a first language.
- Successful completion (grade C, 73% or higher) of either high school biology with a lab or introductory college biology with a lab (Cayuga's BIOL 100, BIOL 101, BIOL 103 or equivalent course).
- Placing into Cayuga's Math 102 or higher or completion of Cayuga's Math 099 (grade C, 73% or higher) or higher or have taken Cayuga's Math 099 or higher at another institution.
- Placing into Cayuga's English 101-Freshman English 1 or completion of Cayuga's English 101 (grade C, 73% or higher) or higher, or have taken Cayuga's English 101 or higher at another institution.
- Satisfactory scores on the **ATI TEAS** allied health entrance exam due by April 15 deadline. Cost of exam is incurred by the applicant. *The ATI TEAS entrance exam requirement is waived for applicants possess a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution.
- Each OTA program applicant is responsible for assessing his or her own computer competency. Students must possess basic proficiency in computer use, including the ability to use databases and search engines to access information, word processing for writing, and email for attaching files as needed.
- Access to a reliable internet connection is required throughout the program.



COURSE SEQUENCE AND PROGRAM LENGTH

The curriculum is a recommended two-year course sequence. All students are required to complete all graduation requirements within four years from the start of enrollment in the first OTA course. OTA 210 and OTA 211 (both level II fieldwork courses) must be completed within 18 months of completing the academic portion of the curriculum.

Requests for credit for experiential learning or transfer of OTA professional courses from another OTA program are not being considered at this time.

OTA courses are offered one time per year and must be taken in sequence starting in the fall semester.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

All OTA prefix courses must be taken at Cayuga's Fulton Campus.

COURSES	CREDIT HOURS
Fall Semester 1	
BIOL 203 Anatomy and Physiology I [†]	4
ENGL 101 Freshman English I [†]	3
PSY 101 Introductory Psychology [†]	3
OTA 101 Introduction to Occupational Therapy*	2
OTA 103 Occupational Performance Across the Lifespan*	3
OTA 105 Clinical Conditions and Medical Terminology*	2
	17
Spring Semester 1	
BIOL 204 Anatomy and Physiology II [†]	4
ENGL 270 Technical Writing [†]	3
OTA 110 Clinical and Community Practice IA*	1.5
OTA 111 Human Movement for Occupation*	2
OTA 113 Occupational Therapy Process: Birth to Adolescence*	4
OTA 115 Technology and Adaptation Across the Lifespan*	2
OTA 117 Professional Communication Skills for the OTA*	1
	17.5
Summer Semester 1	
OTA 120 Clinical and Community Practice IB*	1.5
	1.5
Fall Semester 2	
PSY 206 Abnormal Psychology [†]	3
SOC 101 Introductory Sociology [†]	3
OTA 201 Occupational Therapy Process: Adults and Elders*	2
OTA 203 Occupational Therapy Process: Mental Health Across the Lifespan*	2
OTA 205 Occupational Therapy Process: Physical Health Across the Lifespan*	4
OTA 207 Professional Transition and Management*	2
	16
Spring Semester 2	
OTA 210 Fieldwork II A*	6
OTA 211 Fieldwork II B*	6
	12
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	64

*Minimum grade of C required to complete graduation requirements.

[†]May be taken prior to applying to OTA program.



FIELDWORK

The OTA curriculum includes 4 required fieldwork rotations. Students travel to community settings for each of the two Clinical and Community Practice fieldwork courses outside of scheduled class times. Two Level II fieldwork courses comprise the final semester of the program, and each consists of 8 weeks of full-time supervised training in a clinical setting. Students gain in-depth experience in delivering occupational therapy services to clients of various ages, backgrounds and conditions. Level II fieldwork may require special housing. Transportation to all fieldwork sites is the responsibility of the student.

Note: Students are required to take OTA 120, Clinical and Community Practice IB fieldwork course during the 10-week summer session after successful completion of the second semester of the program. The summer course is offered only in this sequence and is a requirement for continuation as a third-semester student and for graduation within the stated time line. Students may not be eligible for financial aid during the summer session.

Students are required to carry professional liability insurance and hold current CPR certification throughout all fieldwork experiences.

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

These are the performance criteria required to complete the academic and fieldwork components of the OTA program. It is essential that OTA students possess and maintain the functional requirements outlined on www.cayuga-cc.edu/academics/schools/health-sciences/occupational-therapy-assistant/program-expectations with or without reasonable accommodations.

BACKGROUND CHECKS AND LIMITATIONS FOR LICENSURE

- Health care agencies may require criminal background checks, drug testing and fingerprinting for OTA students completing fieldwork under their supervision.
- Eligibility for licensure as an OTA in New York State by anyone who has been convicted of a crime or who has charges pending in any state or country will be determined through an investigation by the New York State Education Office of Professional Discipline.
- In order to obtain licensure to practice as an OTA in New York State, graduates must pass the national certification examination offered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. History of a felony or misdemeanor may impact a graduate's eligibility to sit for the national certification examination. If you have a criminal history, it is strongly recommended that you complete a character review before starting the OTA program.
- To access certification information, go to www.NBCOT.org and click on the certification candidates tab. You may contact NBCOT at One Bank Street, Suite 300, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. (301) 990-7979 or info@nbcot.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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or

www.cayuga-cc.edu/academics/schools/health-sciences/occupational-therapy-assistant

PROGRAM PROGRESSION

- A minimum passing grade of C (73%) must be achieved in each OTA course and in BIOL 203 and BIOL 204. A grade less than C (73%) is considered an unsuccessful attempt.
- A student is limited to one unsuccessful attempt in an OTA course or fieldwork placement (W or grade less than C).
- Students who do not successfully complete one OTA course may not continue on to the next OTA courses until that course is complete. Note that OTA courses are taught one time per academic year. Courses that were not successfully completed cannot be repeated until the following year.
- A second unsuccessful attempt of any OTA course or fieldwork placement (W or grade less than C) will result in dismissal from the OTA program.
- Students are required to maintain a GPA of 2.5 in order to continue in the OTA program and to progress to Level II Fieldwork (OTA 210 and OTA 211).
- Any student who has been dismissed or has withdrawn from the program must apply for re-entry through the OTA Program Director and must submit an OTA Re-entry Request to the OTA Program Director two months prior to the semester start date.
- Students must meet program curriculum requirements and follow the OTA program policies and procedures in place for the academic year in which they are readmitted to the OTA program.
- Re-entry at any level is not guaranteed. A student seeking readmission into the OTA program will be considered on the basis of the space availability and compliance with the re-entry procedure.
- All academic coursework must be completed before the start of Level II Fieldwork (OTA 210 and OTA 211).
- OTA 210 and OTA 211 must be completed within 18 months of completion of academic coursework.
- OTA courses must be completed within four years from start of the first OTA course.
- The following grading system is used by the OTA faculty:

A	93-100	A-	90-92
B+	87-89	B.....	83-86
B-	80-82	C.....	73-76
C+	77-79	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	63-66
D-	60-62	F	less than 60
WF	less than 60		

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

OTA students must be able to meet all established academic and fieldwork requirements to successfully complete the program. In accordance with law and College policy, no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of that disability, be excluded from participation in the program. Cayuga Community College will provide reasonable accommodations to a qualified individual with a disability. The Office of Accessibility Resources is responsible for determining if reasonable accommodations can be identified and for ensuring that such accommodations are provided for students. It is the responsibility of the applicant or student to request the accommodations needed to meet the program's Functional Skills. To be eligible for a reasonable accommodation, applicants must provide clear documentation of disability. Arranging for accommodations is a confidential process.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

After being accepted into the OTA program, students must show evidence of the following by October 15:

- Completed physical exam (to be updated annually).
- The health record must show no physical condition that would limit safe performance of the Functional Skills of the OTA student.
 [\(see www.cayuga-cc.edu/academics/schools/health-sciences/occupational-therapy-assistant/program-expectations\)](http://www.cayuga-cc.edu/academics/schools/health-sciences/occupational-therapy-assistant/program-expectations)
- Completed Mantoux test and immunization records.
- Compliance with New York State health requirements.

CPR REQUIREMENT

The student must hold CPR certification throughout the program. American Heart Association certification (BLS for Adults, Infant and Child) and Red Cross certification (Professional Rescuer Course) are valid for two years. Online certification or re-certification is accepted if a competency demonstration is performed. Note: "Heart Saver" and "Community CPR" do not meet the CPR requirement. Evidence of CPR certification must be submitted to the OTA program director by October 15.



Start Smart
and Save
Thousands

1st
choice

8 out of 10 graduates
said Cayuga was their
first choice

Why Cayuga?

Cayuga is **Affordable**: As a SUNY institution, Cayuga is one of the most affordable institutions in the country.

Cayuga's **Flexible Schedule** meets your needs. Degrees and courses are available in Auburn, Fulton, and online, and staggered start dates enable students to take classes that fit their schedule.

Cayuga is **Student Oriented**: Faculty members help students learn by emphasizing active, collaborative student learning techniques.

Cayuga has **Small Classes**: An average class size of 13 students ensures individualized attention and an ideal learning environment.

Cayuga has **Great Professors**: Our faculty hold advanced degrees from universities across the country, and bring a wealth of experience from the world to the classroom.

Cayuga **Prepares Students** for what's next. Over 90% of graduates said Cayuga met their educational needs, and 99% would recommend Cayuga to others.



Contact us for more information

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