

TWO-YEAR PROGRAM (AAS)

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Restoring dignity and rebuilding lives: that's what being an occupational therapy assistant is all about. OTAs help clients overcome challenges such as traumatic brain injury, stroke, mental health issues, autism, developmental disabilities and changes associated with aging.

The mission of Maria's Occupational Therapy Assistant program is to give students a quality academic and clinical education in preparation for work with individuals of all abilities, ages, and from various cultural and socioeconomic groups. The program is based on the altruistic and compassionate values shared by the occupational therapy profession, and the College's founders, the Sisters of Mercy—both acknowledging the value of human differences and individuality.

Occupational Therapy (OT) courses are offered in the Day Division and Weekend College. Courses are taught in a combination of lecture, discussion and demonstration, with active participation vital to student learning. A splinting lab, pediatric lab and an ADL learning lab give students hands-on experience. Clinical experience is offered in a variety of traditional settings, including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, mental health facilities, developmental centers and schools. Emerging areas of OT practice in community and social systems are used to reflect current trends in health care. Clinical laboratory and fieldwork education are scheduled during the day hours for all students. Students in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program may need to be certified in CPR and/or fingerprinted with background checks to meet individual clinical site requirements.

Maria College has the only Occupational Therapy Assistant program in the Capital Region accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, and we offer one of the few weekend OTA options in the nation. Graduates are qualified to sit for the Certification Exam given by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, and to apply for state licensure, which is a professional and legal requirement for practice.

Weekend College

This innovative degree-granting division primarily serves working adults for whom day and evening schedules have been an obstacle to continuing their education. Weekend College students can usually complete degrees in the same two-year time frame as traditionally enrolled day students, by attending classes in three-hour time blocks on Saturday and Sunday, every other weekend, year round.

Try a class online

At Maria, we're all about supporting students, and that goes for those taking online classes, too. We think that for our diverse community, with families and work and very full schedules, learning online can only enhance the experience. Course work for an online class can be completed at convenient locations and times, usually within a regular semester. While most work is done remotely, some courses may require on-campus meetings for labs or exams.

For specific program information, contact:

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Sample Curriculum

Day Division

	First Year CODE	COURSE NAME	CREDIT HOURS
FALL	BIO 209	Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab	4
	ENG 111	Composition I	3
	FYE 101	First Year Experience I	1
	OCT 111	Introduction to OT	2
	OCT 112	OT Skills and Application I	1
	OCT 114	Foundations of OT I	1
	PSY 100	General Psychology	3
	SCI 100	Medical Terminology and Conditions	3
Total Credits			18
SPRING	BIO 210	Anatomy & Physiology II with Lab	4
	FYE 102	First Year Experience II	1
		Free Elective	1
	OCT 116	OT Skills & Application II	1
	OCT 119	Introductory Kinesiology	1
	OCT 120	Occ. Performance Across the Lifespan <i>OR</i>	
	PSY 200	Developmental Psychology	3
	OCT 121	Foundations of OT II	3
	OCT 117*	Fieldwork I—Service Learning	1
	PSY	Psychology Elective	3
Total Credits			18
Second Year			
FALL	OCT 210	Fieldwork I—Psychosocial	1
	OCT 211	Preparing for Practice	1
	OCT 213	OT in Developmental Disabilities	3
	OCT 214	OT in Physical Dysfunction	3
	OCT 215	OT in Psychosocial Dysfunction	4
	PHI 201	Foundations in Social Justice	3
	RES/PHI	Elective	3
Total Credits			18
SPRING	OCT 216**	Fieldwork II—First Rotation	6
	OCT 217**	Fieldwork II—Second Rotation	6
Total Credits			12

* Minimum of 40 hours throughout Spring Semester.

** Two Fieldwork II courses required; full time day hours, eight weeks each.