



Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

Report #1


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February 29th, 2024



Program Overview

- ▶ Program Type: AS Degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant
- ▶ Description:
 - ▶ 16-month program with a cohort model a new cohort starting each fall.
 - ▶ Focus on developing skills for various settings such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient facilities, school districts.
 - ▶ Prepares students for licensure as Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTA).




Accreditation Information

- ▶ Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy (ACOTE) candidacy application is due December 2024, candidacy projection is March 2025, first cohort to start August 2025.
- ▶ Process: Initial report on self study due March 2026, pre-accreditation decision August 2026, initial on-site evaluation October/November 2026, accreditation decision December 2026.
- ▶ Appeal Process: College can appeal if accreditation is withheld.



Program Requirements

- Pre-requisite requirements for foundational coursework is 28 units
- For the Associate in Science Degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant program at College of the Canyons, the OTA core courses would be 42.0 units
- 1382 total hours
 - 392 lecture hours
 - 240 lab hours
 - 750 total fieldwork hours (level I fieldwork is 90 hours, level II fieldwork 660 hours).



Program Goals and Learning Outcomes

Goals:

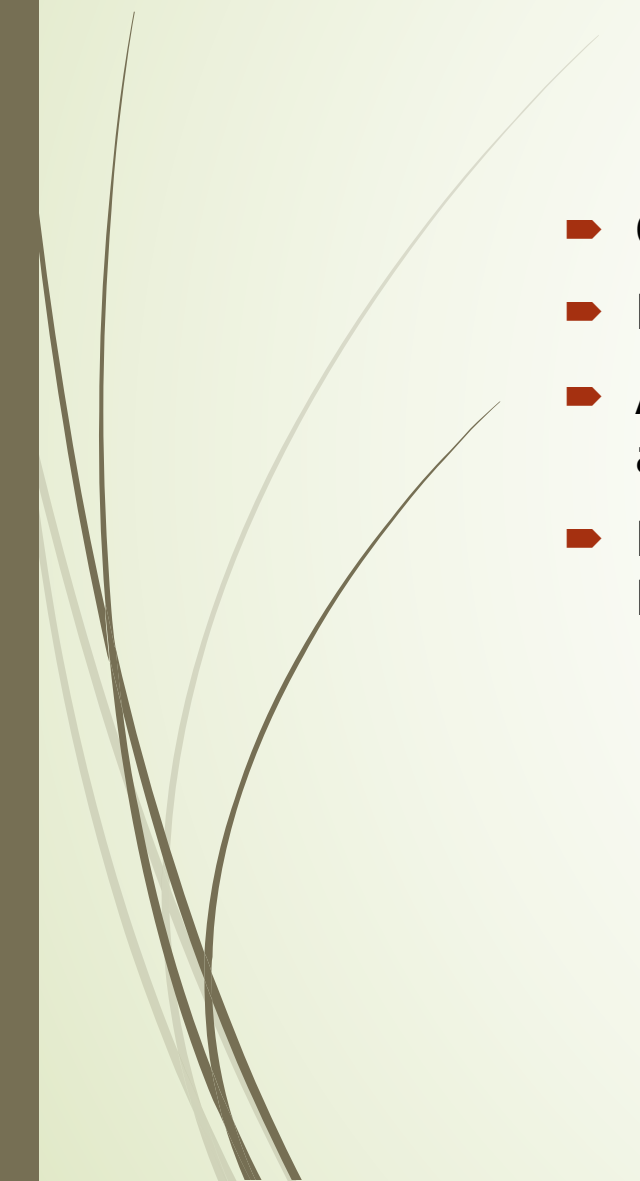
1. Develop competent, ethical, and socially responsive Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant's.
2. Understand challenges hindering patients/clients from participating independently in daily activities.
3. Demonstrate excellence in working across diverse settings.
4. Work effectively with occupational therapists.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate appropriate responses in OT practice environments.
2. Utilize occupation-based activities to increase patients/clients independence across age groups and disabilities.
3. Be eligible for the National Board for Certification In Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).



Core Coursework

- ▶ Core Courses: OTA-100 through OTA-222
 - ▶ Requirements: Completion with a "C" grade or better.
 - ▶ All core coursework must be successfully completed before a student advances to Level II Fieldwork courses, OTA-233 and OTA-243.
 - ▶ Level II fieldwork is required for degree completion and eligibility for National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).
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Course Descriptions

Course Identifier	Title	Short Course Description
OTA 100	Structural Foundations and Theory of Occupational Therapy	In this course the student learns the history and foundations of Occupational Therapy, theory and practice of Occupational Therapy, frames of reference, and diversity training reviewing how Occupational Therapy is performed in a variety of settings and populations.
OTA 110	Foundations of Activity Analysis and Application	In this course the student will participate in completing activity analyses with hands-on experience in activities across the lifespan and applying the teaching/learning process.
OTA 120	Foundations of Biomechanics and Applied Kinesiology in Occupational Therapy	In this course the student will explore components of human movement, including joint structure and function, muscle action, and balance. In addition to the body structures involved in movement, students will examine the motor and processing skills required for engagement in occupation across the lifespan. Students will complete a formal biomechanical activity analysis as it relates to occupational performance.
OTA 121	Fundamental Practice of Biomechanics and Applied Kinesiology in Occupational Therapy Lab	In this course the student will use an analysis and problem-solving approach to functional human movement across the lifespan. Through hands-on laboratory activities, students will develop skills in assessment of client factors affecting engagement in occupations. Students will explore basic intervention methods and strategies for remediation of and compensation for biomechanical deficits and impairments.
OTA 130	Foundational Theory and Process in Neurological Disorders and Psychosocial Issues	In this course the student will explore components of neuroscience, including motor and reflex development, and sensory influence. Students will explore client factors that affect engagement in occupation throughout the lifespan and how these are influenced by neuromusculoskeletal and psychosocial factors. Students will examine the role of the Occupational Therapy Assistant when working with individuals who have mental health conditions, cognitive impairments, trauma histories, and/or dysregulated behaviors in a range of settings and contexts. Students will complete a psychosocial activity analysis as it relates to occupational performance.
OTA 131	Fundamental Practice in Neurological Disorders and Psychosocial Issues Lab	Through a hands-on lab, the student will use an analysis and problem-solving approach when working with individuals who have mental health conditions, cognitive impairments, trauma histories, and/or dysregulated behaviors in a range of settings and contexts. The student will develop skills in group dynamics and in assessment of client factors affecting engagement in occupations. Students will explore basic intervention methods and strategies for remediation of and compensation for neuromusculoskeletal and psychosocial factors.

Course Descriptions Continued


OTA 133	Fieldwork Level I in Psychosocial Issues	Through Level I Fieldwork experiences, the student will be introduced to clinical practice for individuals with mental health conditions and dysregulated behaviors that limit or affect engagement in occupations. As a participant observer, the student will integrate academic experiences with Occupational Therapy (OT) process in settings serving clients with a variety of psychosocial challenges and degrees of disability.
OTA 141	Conditions, Wellness and Fundamental Treatment in Occupational Therapy	In the course, the student will be introduced to conditions and issues in health, illness and wellness, as well as pathologic processes and their impact on the total individual. The student develops knowledge and understanding of the various contexts of occupation, the services in which Occupational Therapy (OT) are provided, and the scope of practice for the Occupational Therapy Assistant.
OTA 151	Fundamentals of Documentation in Occupational Therapy	In this course, the student develops basic skills in documentation, learns how to write subjective, objective, assessment, and plan (SOAP) notes in relation to Occupational Therapy treatment.
OTA 161	Fundamental Theory and Process in Developmental Disabilities and Pediatric Conditions	In this course, the student is introduced to developmental disabilities and common conditions of children and adolescents are referred for occupational therapy treatment. The scope of occupational therapy, the types of practice settings, and the role of the occupational therapy assistant in pediatrics and developmental disabilities are also covered. Common frames of references, evaluation tools and procedures, and intervention strategies used in pediatric occupational therapy practice are presented.
OTA 162	Functional Interventions in Developmental Disabilities and Pediatric Conditions Lab	Through a hands-on lab, the student analyze developmental disabilities and pediatric conditions, and develop intervention methods and strategies for remediation of and compensation for physical deficits and impairments for the infant, child, and adolescent.
OTA 163	Fieldwork Level I in Developmental Disabilities and Pediatric Conditions	Through Level I Fieldwork experiences, the student will be introduced to clinical practice for individuals with pediatric or developmental conditions that limit or affect engagement in occupation. As a participant observer, the student will integrate academic experiences with Occupational Therapy (OT) process in settings serving infant, child, and adolescent clients with a variety of occupational challenges and degrees of disability.
OTA 171	Fundamental Theory and Process in Physical Dysfunction and Adult Rehabilitation	In this course, the student learns the scope of occupational therapy, types of practice settings, common frames of references, intervention strategies, standardized tests, and the role of the Occupational Therapy Assistant in treating adults and older adults with physical dysfunctions.

Course Descriptions Continued

OTA 172	Functional Interventions in Physical Dysfunction and Adult Rehabilitation Lab	Through a hands-on lab, the student analyze physical disabilities and develop intervention methods and strategies for remediation of and compensation for physical deficits and impairments for the adult and older adult.
OTA 173	Fieldwork Level I in Physical Dysfunction and Adult Rehabilitation	Through Level I Fieldwork experiences, the student is introduced to working with individuals with physical dysfunction. As participant observers, the student integrates academic experiences with Occupational Therapy (OT) process in settings serving adult and older adult individuals with physical dysfunction in a variety of occupational challenges and degrees of disability.
OTA 202	Functional Management of Occupational Therapy Services	In this course, the student learns principles and techniques of management appropriate to the Occupational Therapy Assistant. Students learn the roles and functions of the supervisor and the supervisee, scheduling, billing, and quality improvement.
OTA 212	Advanced Functional Interventions and Evidenced Based Practice in Occupational Therapy	In this course, the student will apply therapeutic intervention for the accomplishment of purposeful activities (occupation) including family/caregiver training, environmental adjustments, orthotics, prosthetics, assistive technology, physical agent modalities, and other technology. In this course, the student continue to develop clinical reasoning in
OTA 222	Clinical Reasoning and Electronic Documentation in Occupational Therapy	clinical documentation, learn various documentation formats a required by different treatment settings and reimbursement systems and are introduced to the use of electronic medical record (EMR) for preparation for fieldwork.
OTA 233	Fieldwork Level II for the OTA #1	This course is the first fieldwork level II rotation, which concentrates on the application of knowledge and skills for the Occupational Therapy Assistant student. Students complete 8 weeks of full-time supervised fieldwork in a facility working with clients/patients with physical and/or psychosocial dysfunction. Students are required to attend five (5) seminar meetings during the 9-week rotation, which include topics of fieldwork reflection, topics in professionalism, and preparation for the NBCOT examination. Students will be placed in two distinctly different clinical settings for OTA-233 and OTA-243 in order to experience a broad range of clinical expectations and scenarios.
OTA 243	Fieldwork Level II for the OTA #2	This course is the second fieldwork level II rotation, which concentrates on the application of knowledge and skills for the Occupational Therapy Assistant student. Students complete 8 weeks of full-time supervised fieldwork in a facility working with clients/patients with physical and/or psychosocial dysfunction. Students are required to attend five (5) seminar meetings during the 8-week rotation, which include topics of fieldwork reflection, topics in professionalism, and preparation for the NBCOT



Status Update - Successes

- ▶ Hiring: Full-time Program Director (Anna Hillary).
 - ▶ ACOTE Feedback: February 9th, 2024 positive acknowledgment of Program Director credentials. They meet the requirements of 2018 OTA Standard A.2.1.
 - ▶ Initiation and Completion of Program Review: Comprehensive program review concluded successfully.
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Status Update - Challenges

- ▶ **Staffing:** Absence of full-time Academic Fieldwork Coordinator (AFWC). As per ACOTE requirements, a qualified AFWC must be hired full-time six months prior to the submission of the Candidacy Application, which is due December 2024.
- ▶ **Contract Finalization:** Delayed finalized contract from the legal department. Currently, the program only has a "OTA Fieldwork Reservation Request Memorandum of Intent Form to Accept Students."
- ▶ **Curriculum Development:** Time-sensitive development of first-semester courses. The OTA program must develop first-semester courses in collaboration with the curriculum committee by the end of the fall semester to meet the requirements for the ACOTE candidacy application by December 2024.





Program Growth Since PV Committee Approval

- ▶ Milestone: Hiring of Program Director (Anna Hillary), ACOTE positive acknowledgment of Program Director credentials, Initiation and Completion of Program Review.
- ▶ Development Stage: ACOTE acknowledgment of program initiation.
- ▶ Early phase in curriculum establishment with forward direction of finding facilities to be contracted.
- ▶ Future Outlook: Hiring Academic Fieldwork Coordinator (AFWC) will facilitate contract completions, solidifying curricula for first semester, and increase momentum of reaching ACOTE requirements for December 2024 candidacy application.

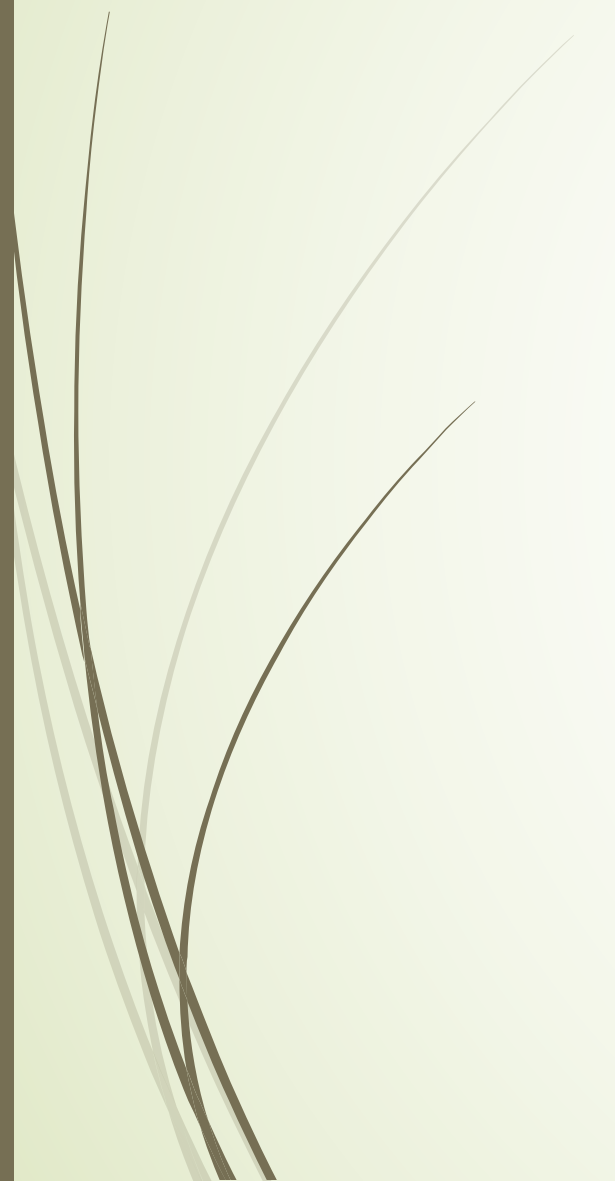


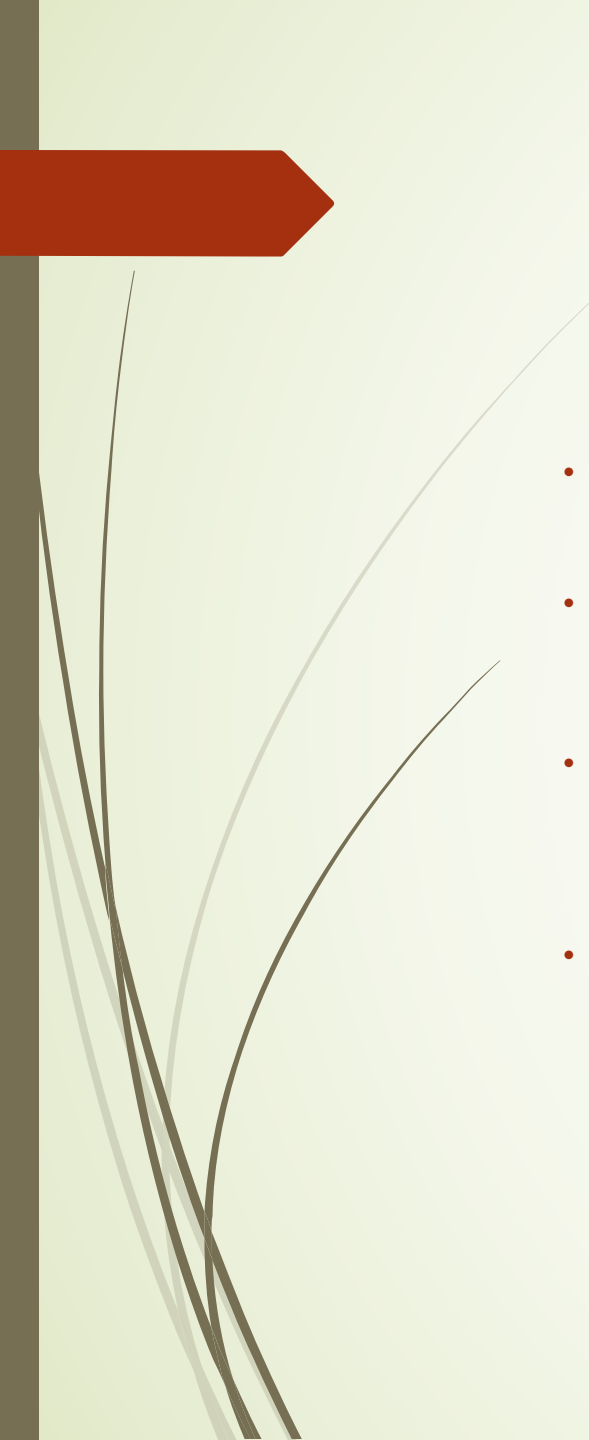
Conclusion

- Summary: OTA program progressing with successes and challenges.
 - Next Steps: Address challenges proactively, collaborate, and advance towards program goals.
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Q&A



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- **OTA 100: Structural Foundations and Theory of Occupational Therapy** :In this course the student learns the history and foundations of Occupational Therapy, theory and practice of Occupational Therapy, frames of reference, and diversity training reviewing how Occupational Therapy is performed in a variety of settings and populations.
 - **OTA 110: Foundations of Activity Analysis and Documentation**: In this course the student will participate in completing activity analyses with hands-on experience in activities across the lifespan and applying the teaching/learning process. The student develops basic skills in documentation, learns how to write subjective, objective, assessment, and plan (SOAP) notes in relation to Occupational Therapy treatment.
 - **OTA 120: Foundations of Biomechanics and Applied Kinesiology in Occupational Therapy**: In this course the student will explore components of human movement, including joint structure and function, muscle action, and balance. In addition to the body structures involved in movement, students will examine the motor and processing skills required for engagement in occupation across the lifespan. Students will complete a formal biomechanical activity analysis as it relates to occupational performance.
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