

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449, (301) 652-AOTA.



*"The OTA Program at SUNY Orange opened new frontiers, new friendships and a new future for me. After years of being an at-home mom, I decided to pursue a new career. I knew I wanted to help people and make an impact on their lives. The OTA program afforded me the opportunity to achieve my goal."*  
Donna Christensen

## Why Become an Occupational Therapy Assistant?

By choosing a career in occupational therapy you will contribute to improving the lives of children, young people and adults alike. Occupational therapy (OT) provides service to those individuals whose abilities to cope with their occupations (tasks) of living are threatened or impaired by developmental deficits, the aging process, physical injury or illness, or psychological and social disability. As an occupational therapy assistant (OTA), you will help children and adults gain the skills needed to take part in meaningful occupations...from dressing and feeding themselves to play, work, school, leisure and community pursuits. You'll have opportunities to address problems and utilize innovative tools and techniques to help your clients perform daily tasks and gain more independence in their lives.

## Why Occupational Therapy Assistant at SUNY Orange?

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program is committed to providing an educational experience that is relevant to the needs and goals of each individual student and acceptable to the facilities and agencies with a potential for hiring occupational therapy assistants. The Occupational Therapy Assistant program was started in 1977 and since that time has enjoyed a reputation of quality and excellence. A well-equipped and state-of-the-art lab, faculty members with a wide array of professional expertise and a diverse variety of fieldwork experiences contribute to the success of the program. Alumni successfully pursue full-time and part-time positions throughout the United States.

## TOP 5 REASONS YOU SHOULD STUDY Occupational Therapy Assistant AT SUNY ORANGE

- ⇒ A national reputation for innovation and excellence in OTA education.
- ⇒ A learning atmosphere that is responsive to individual differences.
- ⇒ Caring and supportive faculty with expertise in many diverse OT practice areas.
- ⇒ SUNY Orange students own a 99% pass rate on national certification exams.
- ⇒ Average employment rate following graduation is 100%.

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## Program Philosophy

As occupational therapy educators, the faculty at SUNY Orange is committed to providing you with varied opportunities for exercising problem-solving skills. This promotes your ability to identify therapeutic methods and techniques which will enable clients and patients to maximize their potential in ways that can be both meaningful and productive. Through exposure to and experience with selected purposeful activities, you will learn the process of adaptation and its relationship to everyday living.

## Employment Prospects

Employment of occupational therapy assistants is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2030. Job growth will result from an aging population, including the baby-boom generation, which will need more occupational therapy services. Increasing demand also will result from advances in medicine that allow more people with critical problems to survive and then need rehabilitative therapy. Third-party payers, concerned with rising healthcare costs, are expected to encourage occupational therapists to delegate more hands-on therapy work to occupational therapy assistants. By having assistants work more closely with clients under the guidance of a therapist, the cost of therapy should decline.

Median annual earnings range of occupational therapy assistants were \$38,000 to \$58,000 in 2014. The projected job growth rate is 33 percent or more.

Employment success for SUNY Orange County Community College OTA graduates is excellent. Alumni successfully pursue full-time and part-time positions in a wide variety of employment settings throughout the United States as well as in the mid-Hudson region of New York.

## Practice Opportunities for Occupational Therapy Assistants

Occupational therapy assistants are employed in a wide variety of health, education and community settings, including:

- Pediatric facilities
- Public and private schools
- Day care programs
- Community healthcare centers
- Wellness programs
- Private practice
- Mental health facilities
- Home care service programs
- Rehabilitation centers
- Forensic institutions
- General hospitals

## Advanced Degrees in Occupational Therapy

Graduates who elect to continue their education and pursue a master's degree in occupational therapy may take advantage of the program's articulation agreements with Dominican College in Blauvelt, and Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry. The weekend, upper division occupational therapy programs at both Dominican College and Mercy College can be completed while working as an occupational therapy assistant.