The occupational therapy assistant helps individuals gain skills needed to become independent in daily living activities under the direction of and in collaboration with the occupational therapist. Students learn the therapeutic use of self-care, work, and play/leisure activities to maximize independent function, enhance development, prevent disability, and maintain health. The ultimate goal is to improve an individual's quality of life and ability to perform daily activities.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Do I have to complete all of the prerequisite core classes before I enroll in OTA classes?
Yes. All prerequisite classes need to be completed by June 30 prior to fall enrollment for the OTA classes.

If I retake a prerequisite outside of USI, which grade will the OTA Program use on my OTA Application Audit?
Providing the course is an equivalent course accepted by USI, the OTA Program will use the higher grade on the OTA Application Audit.

Do you have a COTA program?
A COTA, or Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, is the title received after one passes the national certification examination. One must graduate from an accredited OTA program (such as the University of Southern Indiana (USI) program) to be eligible for the national certification examination.

What do I need to do to become a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA)?
In order to be able to use the title COTA, you must graduate from an accredited program and to successfully pass the national certification exam given by the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

What is the graduation rate?
The total number of graduates from the University of Southern Indiana Occupational Therapy Assistant program during the 3-year period of 2019 to 2021 was 72 with an overall graduation rate of 91.31%.

What are the admission requirements for OTA?
The prospective student must be accepted for admission to USI before completing a separate process to this program. The program selects students for admission to the OTA program on the basis of:
- Completion of OTA core curriculum with a minimum **GPA of 2.9** on a 4.0 scale (see reverse side for list of core courses).
- Submission of all materials in admissions packet by **January 31** of the year planning to be admitted to the fall class.
- Interview with Occupational Therapists Admission Committee
- The selection of students for admission to the program is based on a combination score that includes the standardized interview with the Occupational Therapists Admission Committee (weighted 30%), and the average prerequisite GPA (weighted 70%). Thirty students with the highest ranking will be admitted to the OTA program.
- Prerequisite classes must be completed by June 30 of the application year, prior to the start of fall classes.

What is the average salary upon graduation?
According to the 2019 AOTA Salary & Workforce Survey, the median annual full-time wage for occupational therapy assistants was $50,050 in 2018, and the median hourly rate for the occupational therapy assistant professional was $28 per hour. Salaries and/or hourly wages may vary depending upon practice area and location of employment.

What are the key features of the USI OTA program?
Students may pursue a baccalaureate degree in another major while completing the Associate of Science degree requirements. Students are encouraged to consider completing requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Services.

Are the OTA courses online?
Some courses are held in a hybrid format, combining online and face-to-face instruction. Our program does not offer any fully online courses.

ACCREDITATION

OTA Core Curriculum (Prerequisites)

Fall and Spring Semesters (First Year)

ENG 101	Rhetoric & Composition I	3
PSY 201*	Introduction to Psychology	3
BIOL 121*	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BIOL 122*	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4
HP 115*	Medical Terminology	2
UNIV 101	Freshman Seminar	1

Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Major Requirements

Fall Semester (Second Year)

OTA 213**	Pathophysiology & Conditions	3
OTA 221	Technical Communication	3
OTA 231	Therapeutic Media	3
OTA 232	Media & Modalities	2
OTA 241	Occupational Perf Components I	4
	Total Credit Hours	**15**

Spring Semester (Second Year)

OTA 214**	Pathophysiology & Conditions II	3
OTA 242	Occupational Perf Components II	5
OTA 297**	Practicum Seminar A	2
OTA 343	Occupational Performance Areas I	5
	Total Credit Hours	**15**

Summer Semester (Second Year)

OTA 298**	Practicum Seminar B	2
OTA 344	Occupational Performance Areas II	4
OTA 345	Occup Performance in Pediatrics	3
OTA 372**	Mngt for Occup Therapy Assist	3
	Total Credit Hours	**12**

Fall Semester (Third Year)

OTA 397**	Technical Fieldwork A	3
OTA 398**	Technical Fieldwork B	3
	Total Credit Hours	**6**

*If a student has a bachelor's degree, the student is only required to take the prerequisite courses marked with the asterisk (*).
** Course is an online or hybrid course.