About the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Bates

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program started spring 2011. This nationally-accredited program takes six quarters to complete and a limited number of applicants are admitted every spring quarter. The program is full-time, 7:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at the downtown campus. Graduates are prepared as a generalist with highly developed interpersonal and technical skills and specialized clinical skills that meet the demands of the profession.

The curriculum combines biological and behavioral sciences with occupational therapy concepts and treatment principles for practice in a variety of clinical settings. Classes focus on practice and application of clinical skills. Proficiency in communication skills, critical thinking, problem-solving and working as a professional team member are important components of the curriculum. The curriculum is designed to be developmentally-sequenced teaching students therapeutic, interpersonal, and technical skills for working in a variety of healthcare and educational settings.

Students learn through lecture, labs and hands-on practice, in addition to twenty hours of fieldwork each quarter in which students are placed in different work settings to observe practitioners and educators provide services with individuals with disabilities.

After completing the first four quarters of OTA core courses with a grade of 2.0 or better in each course, students are placed full-time in two sixteen-week clinical fieldwork. After successfully completing the required clinical fieldwork with a grade of 2.0 or better, students earn an Associate’s of Technology degree from Bates. Students then take a national board exam and upon successfully passing the exam, they become a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) and are ready for employment.

The program mission

The mission of the program is to provide a supportive learning environment that will inspire and challenge students to become competent, caring, creative and conscientious professionals. The OTA program is based on the occupational therapy practice beliefs of therapeutic occupations as a way to remediate illness and maintain health. The curriculum is also based on the importance of establishing a therapeutic relationship that is occupation-based, client-centered, contextual, and evidence-based. At the core of the OTA curriculum is teaching values, knowledge, and skills so our graduates are able to provide occupational therapy services with compassion, respect, and competence.

Approximate cost of the program

Tuition and fees for six quarters based on 2013-14 tuition information- $10,165.00
Books, supplies and uniform- $1585.00
Clinical liability insurance, health insurance, immunizations, TB testing, health/dental check, and criminal background check- $740.00
Possible travel expenses to clinical sites (5th and 6th quarters) - $500.00
Additional expenses after program completion - National Board OTA Certification Exam and State OTA License- $720.00

Bates Technical College is an equal opportunity and non-discriminatory employer and educational institution.
OTA Program Entry Requirements

- Be 18 years or older
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Completed each program foundation course with a grade of 3.0
- 15 hours of observation in an occupational therapy setting
- A letter of recommendation from an instructor or employer
- Written essay about OT which meets the criteria in the writing prompt
- Documented evidence of current immunizations and tuberculosis (TB) testing
- Documented evidence of medical and dental health clearance
- Documented evidence of personal health insurance
- Documented evidence of clinical liability insurance coverage
- Pass a national criminal background check

OTA Program Enrollment Process

1. Attend an information session held the first and third Thursday of each month at 2:00pm at the downtown campus in room M218 followed by an OTA Program overview session at 2:30pm in building C, room 203. Sessions cover:
   - Program overview and coursework
   - Program policies and entry requirements
   - Procedures for applying to the program

2. Schedule an appointment with the program advisor, Jason Carroll, in Student Services regarding:
   - COMPASS testing scores, if needed
   - College transcripts and request transcript evaluation, if applicable
   - OTA foundation courses offered at Bates
   - Proof of being at least 18 years of age and high school completion or GED
   - Pay $50 nonrefundable College application fee now, if applicable

3. Submit the OTA Program Enrollment Application (see website for application). The application proves the instructions and forms to meet the following requirements:
   - Completion of all five OTA foundation courses with a minimum grade of 3.0 for each course OR request conditional enrollment in the OTA program for the second quarter of foundation courses
   - Completion of fifteen hours of observation in an occupational therapy setting
   - A letter of recommendation from an employer or instructor
   - Completion of a written personal statement.
   - Pay the $50 nonrefundable College application fee (see the program advisor in Student Services)

4. Once acceptance to the program has been received, begin the entry requirements (national criminal background check, immunizations and TB testing, physical and dental, health insurance coverage, clinical liability insurance).
Foundation coursework
Each of the five OTA foundation courses must be completed with a grade of 3.0 or better.

OTA foundation courses:
1. English Composition- 5 credits
2. Math 100+ level math- 5 credits
3. Anatomy & Physiology with lab- 5 credits
4. Medical Terminology- 2 credits
5. Lifespan Psychology- 5 credits

Bates course offerings:
ENGL& 101
MATH 146, 171, 172, or 173
BIOL& 175, or BIOL 241 and 242 both
BIOL 170 or MEDSU 101
PSYC 200 (prereq- PSYC 101 General Psychology)

Students should see their career advisor about transferring coursework from another institution and registering for foundation course at Bates.

Bates Technical College offers a two-quarter track to guide students in acquiring these required OTA foundation courses in an efficient manner. Foundation courses can be taken in any order and at Bates or transferred to Bates from another institution.

Sample Guide of a two-quarter track for completing OTA foundation courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTA Foundation Coursework</th>
<th>OTA Core Coursework</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Qtr 15 credits</td>
<td>Spring Qtr 18 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC&amp; 100 General Psych (pre-req to PSYC&amp; 200)</td>
<td>PSYC&amp; 200 Lifespan Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL&amp; 101 English Composition</td>
<td>BIOL&amp; 175 Survey of Anatomy &amp; Phys w/lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 171 Tech. Math or MATH 146 Statistics</td>
<td>BIOL 170 Medical Terminology</td>
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Conditional enrollment for OTA
Conditional enrollment allows students to take the second quarter of the OTA foundation courses at Bates after submitting an OTA program enrollment application. To receive conditional enrollment, students must meet the OTA enrollment application requirements outlined in the OTA enrollment application. Students must pass the foundation courses with a grade of 3.0 or better to maintain “accepted” status and entry to OTA program.
Program Accreditation
The OTA program at Bates has obtained full program accreditation with the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE’s telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its Web address is www.acoteonline.org. For more information about OTA accreditation, call ACOTE at 301-652-AOTA or visit the website at www.aota.org.

National Board Certification Exam
Our graduates are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

To access the passing rates on the NBCOT examination of Bates OTA graduates, go online to https://secure.nbcot.org/data/schoolsstats.aspx.

For assistance with OTA prerequisites, transcripts, registration, and financial aid, contact:
Jason Carroll
Program Advisor, Student Services
253.680.7008/7002
jcarroll@bates.ctc.edu

For OTA program information or specific questions about enrollment, email:
Denise Tremblay, M.Ed. OTR/L
OTA Program Director
dtremblay@bates.ctc.edu  253.680.7108