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 Fall 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 Applied Science 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 Occupational Therapy Assistant 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 2016-17 tuition fees)- $10,119.42
- Books, supplies and uniform- approximately $1585.00
- Clinical liability insurance, health insurance, immunizations, TB testing, health/dental check, Healthcare Provider CPR/First Aid, and criminal background check- approximately $750.00
- Possible travel expenses to clinical sites (5th and 6th quarters) – approximately $500.00
- Additional expenses after program completion - National Board OTA Certification Exam $555.00 and State OTA License- $166.00
OTA Program Entry Requirements and Enrollment Process

1. Attend an OTA program overview session held the first Thursday of each month at 2:30pm at the downtown campus in room in building C, room E203. Sessions cover the:
   - profession of occupational therapy
   - program overview and entry requirements
   - OTA foundation and core courses
   - transferring coursework from another college
   - process for applying to the program

2. Complete the five OTA foundation courses with a minimum grade of 3.0 for each course prior to OTA program entry.
   - See the advisor in Student Services to regarding the OTA foundation courses. You may need to take a college placement test if attending college for the first time. Show proof of being at least 18 years of age and high school completion or GED.
   - Pay the $50 nonrefundable College application fee.

3. Complete a minimum of 15 hours of observation or job shadowing in two occupational therapy settings.
   - Download the Documentation of OT Observation Hours form

4. Download the OTA program enrollment application from the Bates OTA webpage December 1, 2017. As also noted on the OTA website, the application may be submitted between January 8, 2018 and January 26, 2018. No applications will be accepted after January 26, 2018. Selections for the OTA program are based on a first-come, first-serve basis of applicants submitting a completed application with all required documents. The application provides the forms and the instructions for the following requirements:
   - Provide a copy of the letter from Bates Registrar approving the transfer of any of the OTA foundation courses taken at another college and or a copy of your unofficial Bates transcript for any Bates course you have already completed. Each foundation course grade must be 3.0 or better.
   - Provide a current letter of recommendation from an employer, supervisor or instructor who has known you for at least six months.
   - Complete a written personal essay form in the application.
   - Provide the signed forms documenting observation in two occupational therapy settings.

Clinical Requirements for the OTA Program

Once acceptance to the OTA program, the students submit documentation of:
- current tuberculosis (TB) testing and immunizations (hepatitis B measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, varicella, and annual influenza)
- Healthcare Provider CPR/First Aid
- medical and dental health clearance
- personal health insurance
- clinical liability insurance coverage
- a national criminal background check
**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. Lifespan Psychology- 5 credits
5. Medical Terminology- 2 credits

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.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTA Foundation Coursework</th>
<th>OTA Core Coursework</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 credits</td>
<td>12 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC&amp; 100 General Psych 5 credits</td>
<td>PSYC&amp; 200 Lifespan Psychology 5 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL&amp; 101 English Composition 5 credits</td>
<td>BIOL 170 Medical Terminology 2 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 100+ 5 credits</td>
<td>BIOL&amp;175 Survey of A&amp;P 5 credits</td>
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</table>

Students who have successfully completed at least two foundation courses can apply to the program with a plan to take the remaining foundation courses at Bates and complete each course with a grade of 3.0 or better.
Program Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Number of students enrolled in cohort</th>
<th>Number of program graduates</th>
<th>Percentage of program graduates</th>
<th>Percentage Passing NBCOT exam</th>
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</thead>
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<td>18</td>
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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/schoolstats.aspx.

Program Accreditation

April 2017, the OTA program at Bates obtained a five-year 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.