

# Occupational Therapy Assistant Program



## APPLICATION INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in the MSC OTA program. This document is prepared to assist prospective students to better understand the admission process for the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program at MSC.

Interested students do not need to apply to the OTA program to take the general education core and OTA program prerequisite courses to prepare for application to the second year, or specialized part of the program. In addition to the requirement for admission to the college, students interested in applying to the second year of the OTA program must also meet the following program specific requirements:

1. Have an enhanced ACT composite score of 19 or higher, or achieving a least a 3.0 GPA in ALL college course work if ACT is below a 19.
2. Attain a grade point average of at least 2.5 on ALL completed college course work with a grade of "C" or higher in prerequisite classes in the biological and behavioral sciences. *All courses in the biological and behavioral sciences must be taken within 10 years of anticipated year of graduation from the OTA program.*
3. Be able to meet the physical and mental requirements of the role required of an OTA. A detailed list of these requirements is available (see essential functions) and students are asked to signify that they meet these requirements prior to admission to the program.
4. Complete all program prerequisite courses prior to the end of spring semester in which they are applying to the OTA second year. As prerequisite to enroll in MSC A&P I, students need to complete one year of high school chemistry with a grade of "B" or higher or complete one semester of college chemistry. *Note: Not every school requires the same prerequisite courses for A & P, therefore if you take your anatomy and physiology courses at another school you need to check the prerequisites for that school.*
5. Attend an Allied Health Program Admission Class conducted by the OTA Program Director. These classes consist of approximately 1 hour orientation to the application process.
6. Complete a minimum of **16 hours** of observation of a Occupational Therapist or Occupational Therapy Assistant in a facility that provides occupational therapy. Documentation of all observation is completed on the Clinical Observation Form and returned to the program by the OT or OTA who was observed.
7. Take an ATI TEAS Admissions Test. To schedule a test date, you must attend an application orientation class. Testing is conducted through the Testing Centers on MSC campus.
8. Complete an OTA Application packet and submit to the OTA Office prior to the **last Friday in April**.
9. Once applications have been evaluated, OTA prospective students who demonstrate high performance will be invited for a personal interview with faculty at a time following the application due date as part of the application process.
10. All of student's application and interview information will be presented to the OT Advisory and Selection Committee for review.

The application process begins in the spring semester for those students who are eligible to apply to the specialized portion of the program. Students who have completed the general education core and prerequisite courses required or will complete these classes prior to the end of the summer in the year of application to the OTA program, may apply to the OTA program.

## Occupational Therapy Selection Process

The second year (also called specialized year) is when students take the actual OTA specific classes. Candidates are chosen shortly after the due date by the Allied Health Programs Selection Committee and the selected class will meet for program orientation.

The class is selected using a points system developed for the Health Science Department. This system is as objective and unbiased as we can make it. It is our desire to select students who are qualified and capable of success in the program and in the profession upon graduation. The selection of the class is made by the **selection committee**. The selection committee is made up of MSC faculty and OTA program advisory committee members. Selection is made based on a **point system** that includes the following major components:

1. ACT composite score
2. Admission test
3. Grades on prerequisite course work and overall GPA
4. Observation **Clinical Observation Form**

A minimum of sixteen (16) hours of clinical observation is required for application to the MSC/OTA program. The purpose of the observation is to gain a better understanding of the profession of occupational therapy. No points are given for the initial 16 hours of observation. Students may earn additional points by observing up to 32 additional hours. Students can only observe 16 hours with any one OT or OTA. Clinical observation can be scheduled with any willing licensed OT or OTA. Students interested in completing observation hours should contact a provider organization (for example a hospital, out-patient clinic, or private provider) and gain permission for the observation experience. Times should be set up that are convenient for the occupational therapy provider, and may be scheduled in any combination that is convenient. Students should present themselves in a manner that they might for a professional job or potential employment interview. Students should inquire about proper dress and ask questions that demonstrate a desire to learn about the profession. The required 16 hours **may be** completed with one therapist or with more than one OTR or OTA, and one or more settings. Each different observation must be documented on one clinical observation form.

For further information, or if you have questions, please contact the program office.

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