

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

The OTA Program utilizes standardized computer testing to prepare the student for the national certification exam. Fees for standardized testing will be attached to course tuition.

Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a **certified occupational therapy assistant (COTA)**. In addition, most states require licensure to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT certification examination. **A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT Certification Examination or attain state licensure.**

Each student will be responsible for any fees involved in the examination/certification process.

NBCOT
800 South Frederick Ave, Suite 200
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-4150.
Phone: (301) 990-7979.
www.nbcot.org

NBCOT does provide accommodations for the national examination. Students should research the definitions and required documentation regarding accommodations for the examination early in their academic training to ensure a smooth application process. This research into application and supporting documentation is the responsibility of the individual student.

Additional employment requirements, such as state licensure, vary from state to state and among countries. Students are encouraged to determine the additional employment requirements of the state or nation in which they wish to work early in their college studies, so that faculty may provide counseling. State licensure also includes a criminal history background check and may include other character checks, including status of student loan repayment or outstanding child support payments.

In Texas, Occupational Therapy Assistants must be licensed by the **Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE)**. Application for a license in Texas is directed to:

Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners
333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-510
Austin, TX 78701-3942
Phone: (512) 305-6900
www.ecptote.state.tx.us

Each student is responsible for accessing the most current information for his or her application for a state license. In addition, each student is responsible for any fees involved in licensure.

Students receive an Associate of Applied Science degree, with a cleared for graduation diploma at the end of the semester related to completed Level II fieldwork (usually, May, August and December), based on Navarro College policies. Students may participate in the May graduation ceremony prior to completing Level II fieldwork. Students should discuss their individual status in the program during the second year of study to plan graduation participation. Depending on the time of graduation, the student may be required to obtain a temporary license to work in the state of Texas pending final release of diploma and NBCOT scores.

It is the responsibility of the student to file for the national certification exam. Students who will not be in the Navarro College area following completion of academic studies will still be responsible for working with the Navarro College Registrar's office to file any necessary paperwork required for the national certification exam. It is the responsibility of the student to become familiar with the requirements of the NBCOT and to apply for the national examination. Students will be given information on accessing information about certification before graduation.