Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
Navarro College
Occupational therapy focuses on enabling people to do the activities of daily life. The very word “occupation” means an activity which “occupies” our time.

- American Occupational Therapy Association
Occupational therapy practitioners use occupations or activities to promote recovery, health, and wellness.
OTR versus COTA

- Two professional levels in occupational therapy
  - Registered occupational therapist (OTR)
    - Master’s degree in occupational therapy and certification by NBCOT
  - Certified occupational therapy assistant (COTA)
    - Associate’s degree in OTA and certification by NBCOT
Where do OTAs work?

- Hospitals
- Outpatient rehabilitation centers
- Home health agencies
- School districts
- Nursing homes
- Physician centers
- Hospice
- Mental health centers
- Home health
- School districts
- Nursing homes
- Physician centers
- Wellness centers
Career Outlook for the OTA

  
  – “Employment is expected to grow much faster than average as demand for occupational therapy services rises and as occupational therapists increasingly use assistants and aides. Job prospects should be very good for occupational therapist assistants.”
  
  – “Median annual earnings of occupational therapist assistants were $42,060 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between $34,130 and $50,230. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $26,050, and the highest 10 percent earned more than $58,270.”
Texas Salaries

• Texas Workforce Commission Summer 2009 Report
  – OTA expected job growth 42% between 2006 and 2016 in Texas
  – Average annual salary for Texas OTA ~ $51,000
Why Navarro College?

One of only three programs north of Austin, Texas
A new class begins the OTA Program each fall

2012 = 48 students accepted
2012 = 170 applicants
Curriculum redesigned in spring 2011
What’s New

• Prerequisites
  – BIOL 2401 Human Anatomy & Physiology I OR BIOL 2404 Introduction to Anatomy & Physiology
  – HPRS 1101 Introduction to Health Professions
  – Complete both courses by December 2011
What Has Changed

• HPRS 1102 Wellness and Health Promotion:
  – No longer part of degree plan

• 24 hours of observation:
  – No longer part of the admission requirement but can receive points toward healthcare experience

• ORIN 1100 Education and Career Planning
  – Replaced by HPRS 1101 Introduction to Health Professions
Application to the Program
a) Prior to application:
1. Download the Application Packet from the OTA webpage.
2. Apply to Navarro College.
3. Submit all official transcripts to Registrar for evaluation.
b) Application portfolio submitted to program:
1. Complete OTA Program application.
2. Complete *Core Curriculum/Related Requirements Table*. Include copies of transcripts from all colleges/universities attending or previously attended.
3. Original FBI Criminal Background Check
4. Evidence of completion of prerequisite courses.
Procedure for Obtaining Background Check

- Students are required to obtain a FBI Identification Record (criminal background check)
- Link to the FBI website can be found on the “OTA Admission Information” page.
  - [http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/fprequest.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/fprequest.htm)
  - Be sure to allow 8-12 weeks for processing
November 1, 2012
Application Period Opens

April 1, 2013
Application Deadline
Ranking System for Applicants

Updated for 2011

Applicant Entrance Criteria Worksheet
Fieldwork Education
• Fieldwork education provides the OTA student with “hands on” experience in the delivery of occupational therapy services

• Travel will be necessary with possibility of early mornings, evenings, and weekends

• Two parts
  – Level I (clinical)
    • Completed during the academic portion of curriculum
  – Level II (practicum)
    • Begins after completion of all academic coursework
    • Minimum of 16 weeks full-time fieldwork in a practice setting
General Information
• Program can be completed in 24 months (including fieldwork)
• OTHA courses are taught in sequence
  – Progression of curriculum
• Students not successful in one or more courses or withdraw from a course are withdrawn from the program and must apply for readmission
  – Readmission cannot be guaranteed
  – All courses must be completed with a grade of “C” (75) or better to progress
• Random drug screens
• Additional background checks may be required for fieldwork facilities
• Requires annual TB testing, proof of required immunizations, and physical from physician prior to entry in level I and level II fieldwork.
  – Hepatitis B immunization needs to be started 6 months prior to enrollment in level I fieldwork
    • State requirement before student allowed to have client contact
• Students are required to purchase medical liability insurance at the start of each fall semester ($15).
• Professional dress in classroom and clinic
  – Students are required to purchase OTA shirt to be worn at all level I clinical sites ($20)
  – Black monogrammed scrubs required for labs
• The faculty will make its selections for the Fall class in April/May 2013.
• Students should receive letters as to their status in May 2013.
• If accepted, students are required to complete and return an acceptance form and attend a mandatory orientation prior to the start of fall classes.
Frequently Asked Questions
When does a new class begin for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program (OTA)?
- A new class begins each fall with the beginning of the College fall semester.

When can I apply to the OTA Program?
- The Program will begin accepting applications November 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2012 for the next fall class admission. The deadline to submit all required forms is April 1, 2013.
• How do I get an application?
  – Applications are available by downloading the *OTA Application Packet* from the OTA webpage (accessible through the Navarro College website) or by requesting the forms from the Health Professions office.
• Are there any special requirements or tests?
  – There is not a program-specific test for entering the OTA Program.
  – Students must apply to Navarro College and meet all of the College’s requirements for admission.
• How do I enter the OTA job market?
  – After completing the AAS degree, an OTA in Texas is required to pass the national certification exam administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) to become a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). The OTA is also required to be licensed to practice as an OTA in the state of Texas.
• Will an OTA degree allow me to obtain further education?
  – Navarro College has articulation agreements with several universities, which will allow a student with an associate degree in applied science in OTA to apply credits toward a bachelor’s degree. There are also bridge opportunities where a COTA can enter the master’s program in occupational therapy (OT) to become a Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR).
Ask Yourself……

• Do I like helping others?
• Do I mind touching people?
• How much time can I spend in class?
• How much time can I spend in my studies
  – Requires critical thinking
  – Not a “recipe” profession
• Where do I want to work?
For more information.....

www.navarrocollege.edu
The curriculum is designed to meet the standards of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). The Navarro College Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). ACOTE can be contacted at:

- Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education
c/o Accreditation Department
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