

Frequently Asked Questions OTA Program

Q: How do I apply to the OTA Program?

Students must start by applying to the college (Chatt Tech) and be accepted by Spring Semester of each year. Once accepted to the college, students can then apply to the OTA Program separately. Students are only considered for admission if they have met (or expect to meet) all of the pre-requisites by the published deadlines. Requirements are available on the [Occupational Therapy Assistant Admission Information](#) website.

Q: Is it hard to get into the OTA Program?

The OTA Program does have competitive admission (even though Chatt Tech is Open Enrollment). We accept about 18 students each Fall based on a points system. You can see what items are considered for points on our [CTC OTA Admission Points](#).

Q: Is the OTA Program offered online?

The OTA Program is only offered in person on the Canton Campus. There are some classes within the program with online portions, but the majority of the program is in person.

Q: Is the OTA Program offered at night or on the weekends?

OTA Program classes are only offered Monday-Friday during regular business hours.

Q: Can I take OTA classes “part-time” or take them on my own schedule?

No, the OTA Program is only available as a “full-time” schedule in a closed cohort.

Q: What is the schedule like for an OTA student?

Students in the OTA Program should expect to be on-campus, in person 4-5 days/week. Class is usually scheduled between about 9:00 am and 3:30 pm, but will vary for specific classes and specific semesters. OTA students are considered “full-time” students.

Q: What is a “Closed Cohort”?

The OTA Program uses a “closed cohort” model. This means that only students in the PTA program may take OTA classes, and students in each cohort will take all their classes together. Students in the OTA program must take their classes in a specific order, and they register for a set of pre-determined courses each semester.

Q: Can I work while I go through the PTA program?

It is possible to work while in the program, but not recommended due to the difficult nature of the program, as well as the variable schedule.

Your clinical schedule can also vary (including evenings and weekends), or you may possibly be out of town. If you do choose to work, a flexible schedule is strongly recommended.

Q: I eventually want to become an OT. Will the OTA program help me get into OT school?

No, the OTA program is not a good steppingstone towards OT school. OT school applicants must have additional pre-requisites. Obtaining an Associates in OTA will not meet this requirement, and your coursework is unlikely to transfer. It is not necessary or common to get an OTA degree before going to OT school.

Q: What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational therapy is a health care profession that focuses on helping people of all ages regain, develop, or master everyday skills to live independent, productive, and satisfying lives.

What is an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)?

Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) are trained to assist in the occupational therapy process under the supervision of, and in collaboration with, an Occupational Therapist, to provide assessment and treatment for a variety of clients or populations.

Q: Why choose Occupational Therapy?

Are you someone who:

- Is comfortable around people of different backgrounds, cultures, and/or ability levels than you?
- Likes to be creative?
- Likes to work 1 on 1 with people who need assistance?
- Likes to develop a relationship with a client over weeks/months?
- Likes to solve problems?

For more info, NBCOT has created: <https://whychooseot.com/>

Q: What is the Difference Between an OT & an OTA?

- Occupational Therapists (OTs or OTRs) currently attend either Master's or Doctoral level educational programs, while OTAs (or COTAs) commonly have either an AS or AAS degree, or Bachelor's degrees.
- Occupational Therapists are responsible for the initial evaluation of patients/clients, while Occupational Therapy Assistants assist with assessment and primarily provide treatment after the initial treatment plan is developed.

- OTAs must work under the supervision of an OT/OTR. Supervision requirements vary by state depending on licensure regulations, however, OTAs usually do not require daily on-site supervision.
- Various reimbursement sources (such as Medicare or Medicaid) also may dictate what an OTA is allowed to do. For example, Medicaid in the state of GA will not reimburse for services provided by an OTA.

Q: Why be an Occupational Therapy Assistant?

Are you someone who...

- Needs a shorter pathway to career success?
- Needs a position that can have a flexible schedule and pays well?
- Needs a position that is full time and pays well?
- Likes to blend science and creativity?
- Wants to work in a role in healthcare that is outside the hospital/clinic environment?
- Enjoys having some autonomy in your workday?

Q: What is the Difference between OT & PT?

Occupational Therapy

- Occupational Therapy practitioners (OTs/OTAs) focus on helping patients/clients engage in meaningful activities of daily living (ADLs).
- ADLs include basic activities such as feeding, dressing, toileting, and bathing, or more complex tasks such as cooking and driving.
- OTs and OTAs are trained to modify the physical environment as well as training the person to use assistive or adaptive equipment to increase independence with daily activities.

Physical Therapy

- Physical Therapy practitioners (PTs/PTAs) focus on evaluating, diagnosing, and treating movement dysfunctions.
- PTs/PTAs assist patients/clients with becoming safer and more independent with mobility.
- PTs/PTAs work with patients/clients on specific skills such as strength, balance, and flexibility in order to improve function and mobility.

Q: Where do Occupational Therapy Assistants Work?

- Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs)*
- School systems*
- Hospitals (including psychiatric)
- Assisted living facilities (ALFs)
- Outpatient centers (including mobile centers)
- Home health
- Community agencies
 - *top employer of OTAs

Q: Employment Outlook

- OTAs should expect to work with older adults, especially in long term care.
- OTAs should expect to work with children and young adults with developmental disorders
- Graduates must be prepared to seek employment outside their immediate area
- Graduates must be prepared to seek PRN positions