

MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MSC OTA program prepares students to enter the profession of Occupational Therapy by becoming Occupational Therapy Assistants. There are many “occupations” of daily life which include learning, growing, playing, working, managing our homes, caring for our families and many more! A career as an occupational therapy assistant offers a wide variety of opportunities to improve the lives of people in all stages of life to make the **“impossible into possible.”**

The OTA program awards an Associate of Applied Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant (AAS) degree to graduates. The Murray State College OTA program is designed so that students complete 34 credit hours of general education prerequisite course work prior to applying to the second year of specialized OTA coursework. This second or specialized year includes OTA program specific courses which are only available to students who have been accepted through the OTA admissions process that occurs in the spring of each year. **The specialized 16-month portion of the OTA program is a distance learning design. The online didactic portion of the program is completed during the first 3 semesters (fall, spring and summer) with 3-4 on-campus laboratory weekends per semester. The 4th and final semester of the 16-month program is the fieldwork portion. Fieldwork consists of two 8-week clinical experiences and is typically completed as a full-time on-site placement at approximately 40 hours/week.** Students can obtain fieldwork sites within their own communities with the assistance of the MSC OTA Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. Students do not need to apply to the OTA program to take the 1st year general education courses.

Faculty

Jayne Campanini, OTD, OTR/L – Program Director

Gina Hatfield, MOT, OTR/L– Instructor, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, SOTA Advisor

Sarah Blankenship, BS, COTA/L-Instructor

The program director and instructors are nationally certified and state licensed occupational therapy providers with varied clinical backgrounds and experience with the academic and clinical education of OT students.

Program Mission Statement

Murray State College OTA program creates competent Occupational Therapy Assistants to facilitate maximum participation in life through meaningful occupations, promoting dignity and freedom in the clients and communities they serve.

The program is designed to prepare graduates to be effective providers of occupational therapy services within a healthcare team and under the direction of an occupational therapist and to act as responsible members of the profession.

Graduates of the OTA program will . . .

1. Demonstrate the ability to think creatively and critically;
2. Clarify and uphold the ethics, attitudes and values of the profession;
3. Use effective communication skills; and
4. Apply occupational therapy interventions based on current occupational therapy principles and best practice.

The A.A.S. degree program graduates will be prepared to take the nationally prepared certification examination through the National Board Certification for Occupational Therapy (NBCOT; www.nbcot.org). Following successful completion of the certification examination, the graduate may enter the profession of occupational therapy and provide client-centered occupational therapy services under the direction and supervision of an occupational therapist. At Murray State College, the Occupational Therapy Assistant program prepares the student, “to deliver occupational therapy services under the supervision of and in partnership with the occupational therapist.” (AOTA, 2014) and to uphold the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics, core values and standards of conduct of occupational therapy practice (AOTA, 2015).

For further information about the OTA program at Murray State College, contact Sharon Young, OTA Program Secretary via email at syoung@mscok.edu or by telephone at 580 387-7440.

References

American Occupational Therapy Association (2015). Occupational therapy code of ethics and ethics standards. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 69

American Occupational Therapy Association. (2014). Guidelines for supervision, roles, and responsibilities during the delivery of occupational therapy services. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 68