



## Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)

Associate's Degree

Are you driven by a desire to help people live more satisfying and productive lives? Are you patient, reliable, and compassionate? If so, then turn these traits into a fulfilling career by becoming an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA). An OTA Associate's Degree in Applied Science can be obtained through Eastwick College.

An occupational therapy assistant is a skilled licensed/certified health care worker who carries out treatment plans under the guidance and supervision of an occupational therapist. OTAs assist OTs in assessing patient needs, determining therapeutic goals, planning and implementing treatment activities, communicating with patients and health care providers and documenting patient progress. Occupational therapy assistants work with people of all ages who, because of physical, cognitive, developmental, social, or emotional problems, need specialized assistance in order to lead an independent, productive, and satisfying life. They may work in a wide variety of settings including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, school systems, psychiatric hospitals and private practice outpatient clinics.

### Program Design

This specially designed program features classes scheduled around the Yomim Tovim. The program combines classroom lectures and clinical experience, which will help to prepare you for a career where you can make a real difference in people's lives.

Through this program, you'll acquire the necessary skills for a solid entry-level position as an occupational therapy assistant. The coursework focuses on medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, growth and development, kinesiology and occupational therapy for mental and physical health. This program is convenient and practical and is designed to give you the edge you need to succeed as an OTA.

### Fast Facts

- 21-month program
- Classroom lectures for TTI students on Eastwick College Campus in Ramsey, NJ
- Sunday classes and one additional evening a week
- The final 16 weeks of the program are comprised of full-time fieldwork.
- Secured fieldwork placement
- Associate of Applied Science degree is obtained through Eastwick College
- Program cost is \$26,700
- Federal Financial Aid is available for eligible students

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## Job Outlook

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects demand for occupational therapist assistants and aids will grow 43 percent nationally through 2020. The average Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant salary in the United States is \$58,027 as of May 31, 2019, but the range typically falls between \$52,278 and \$63,752. Salaries range from \$25-\$40 per hour and can vary widely depending on many important factors, including education, certifications, additional skills, the number of years you have spent in your profession.

## Licensure and Certification

Graduates will be eligible to take the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant. This exam is administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of the exam, the individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA).

## Exam Prerequisites

Students need to have their CPR certification from the American Heart Association for Healthcare Providers by the end of the 1st term.

REQUIRED EXAMS/COURSES	AGENCY	CREDITS	COST
English Composition	CLEP	6	\$80
* this CLEP exam cannot be used towards an Excelsior bachelor's degree.	OR Coopersmith: English Comp 1 & 2	3 credits per course	\$185 per course
Introductory Psychology	Coopersmith	3	\$135
Human Growth and Development	Coopersmith	3	\$135
Public Speaking	Coopersmith	3	\$185

\*All prerequisites must be completed by March 1, 2020. Any remaining prerequisites will incur a \$100 rush fee.

## Fieldwork

During semesters 3, 4 and 5, students will be performing 40 hours of fieldwork. **This fieldwork is done during daytime hours.** Your job (if applicable) will need to accommodate this fieldwork. Students may be able to hold down a job during this program until the final two semesters, which are full time fieldwork; however, before taking a job, students must factor in personal circumstances as well as travel time, academic ability, babysitting, and most importantly, your ability to take off 40 daytime hours during the week during the three level one fieldwork semesters. The final two semesters of the program comprise of 16 weeks of full-time field work followed by 8 weeks in the classroom for exam preparation and

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professional development. Throughout fieldwork, students are placed in facilities and work the length of the day with the therapist in that facility.

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