Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
What is Occupational Therapy?

• Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants help people across the lifespan participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations).

From: www.aota.org
Occupational therapy services typically include:

- Evaluation incorporating the client’s values and goals
- Customized intervention to maximize independence
- Recommendations for adaptive equipment and training
- Guidance and education for family and caregivers
- Adapting the environment to fit the person

From: www.aota.org
Where are OT services provided?

- Hospitals
- School systems
- Outpatient clinics
- Home health agencies
- Rehabilitation centers
- Nursing homes
- Mental health agencies
- Community agencies
- Work and industrial settings
What does an OTA do?

• Works on an interdisciplinary team under the direction of an occupational therapist
• Assists with the evaluation process
• Implements client’s intervention plan
• Documents client’s progress
• Collaborates with OT on client’s plan of care
• Assist with the discharge plan
• Collaborates with OT in research
OTA Program

• Initially accredited in 1994
• Approximately twenty-five students per class
• Three full time faculty
• Two years - five semesters
• Lectures, labs, fieldwork, and fieldtrip components
• Community service/volunteer experiences

Accredited by The Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)
Mission Statement

• The mission of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Radford University Carilion is to prepare within a scholarly environment, ethical, knowledgeable, competent, and caring occupational therapy assistants who value lifelong learning, patient/client advocacy, and evidence-based practice as an instrument and testament of professionalism.
Curriculum Design

The program is structured on a developmental framework which assists in the selection of program content, scope, and sequencing of materials. The curriculum design focuses on three areas of development – personal, technical, and professional skills.

The overarching goal is to prepare students for entry-level practice upon completion of the academic program.
What will you learn in this program?

- Impact of occupational therapy on function and quality of life
- Occupational therapy technical skills and interventions
- Effective communication with the client and intervention team
Technical Skills and Interventions

- Holistic approach to therapy
- Therapeutic use of self
- Activity analysis
- Selection of therapeutic activities
- Use of adaptive equipment
- Environmental modifications
- Treatment modalities – temperature, pressure, electricity
- Skilled documentation for reimbursement
- Evidence-based practice
Program Intensity

• The OTA program is a five-semester intensive academic program. Students are encouraged to consider the impact of work schedule, family commitments, and extra curricular activities on successful participation and completion of the program.

• General education coursework may be taken prior to entering the program. This option lightens the semester course load once enrolled in the program, however students will not be able to progress through the program at a faster rate, as all OTA courses are only taught once per year, and courses must be taken in sequence. Additionally, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credits to be considered full time. Full time status may have an impact on financial aid and other personal situations.
Schedules

• Most OTA classes are during the day – possibility of evening classes/labs
• There are a few mandatory experiences outside the regularly scheduled classes
• Classes typically meet 3-4 days a week
• Fieldwork rotations are scheduled by the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator (AFWC)
  • Level I Fieldwork occurs with corequisite coursework
  • Level II Fieldwork follows completion of academic coursework and occurs full-time for 16 weeks (semester 5)
Health/Fieldwork Requirements

The following are potential requirements for university admission/fieldwork experiences: (refer to the RUC website for further information)

• Health record form – to include immunization records
• Health insurance
• CPR certification
• Drug screen
• *Background check

*All candidates [who would qualify to take the national OTA certification examination following the completion of their academic studies] must complete an application for this exam which includes information concerning any previous charges or convictions of a felony, revocation or suspension of a professional license by a regulatory board, or involvement in any disciplinary action due to malpractice, negligence, or misconduct. For further information and early determination of the approval to sit for the national board, contact the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) at www.nbcot.org (http://nbcot.org)
Academic Policies

• Maintain minimum GPA of 2.0
• Achieve minimum grade of “C” in Anatomy and Physiology I and II and all OTA coursework
• OTA courses must be taken in the order and during the semester presented

Failure to achieve minimum academic standards will result in program probation or dismissal.
The OTA Program is committed to the development of student’s professional behaviors which include but are not limited to:

• Dependability
• Professional presentation
• Empathy
• Teamwork/cooperation
• Flexibility
• Supervisory process
• Leadership
• Communication
Additional Information

RUC OTA Program Director:
Ave Mitta, MS, OTR/L; 540-985-4097; amitta@radford.edu
or Occupational Therapy Department Administrative Assistant - 540-985-8594

American OT Association
www.aota.org

Virginia OT Association
www.vaota.org

National Board for Certification in OT
www.nbcot.org

Accreditation Council for OT Education
www.acoteonline.org