Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

RUC RADFORD UNIVERSITY CARILION

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, and fieldwork 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. A three year track is available for students who wish to consider extending the program. Request for a three year track must be approved by the program director.

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)

- Physical examination form
- Immunization record form
- Health insurance
- CPR certification
- Drug screen
- *Background check

*All candidates [who would qualify to take the national OTA certification examination] 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 in formation 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.

Professional Behaviors

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; 540-985-4097; amitta@radford.edu

or Occupational Therapy Department Administrative Assistant– Savannah Payne – 540-985-8594; scpayne@radford.edu

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 Council

www.acoteonline.org