

PRCC's OTA Verification of Observation Form

PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FORREST COUNTY CENTER

_____ is applying to the Occupational Therapist Assistant' program at Pearl River Community College. Observation of the program in practice is strongly encouraged. This will ensure the applicant has an understanding of the various roles within Occupational Therapy and has a general idea of the OT practice itself.

Facility Name: _ _____

Facility Address: _____

Facility Phone: _____

Date: _____

Hours Observed: _____ Date Observed: _____

Applicant Signature: _____

OT or OTA

Signature: _____

Please note that the Clinical Therapist MUST sign this form in order for the credit to be given for the hours observed. This form will be Invalid unless signed by facility therapist.

Dear Prospective OTA Student:

We are excited about what our program for Occupational Therapy Assistants has to offer. We hope that you will be a part of it! We have enclosed our application packet.

Applications will be accepted through **May 1st**. Only course work transcribed prior to **May 1st** will be used to compute GPA. It is the **responsibility** of the applicant to complete the Instruction for Admissions and return these forms to the department no later than 4:00 p.m. on **May 1st**.

Please send the enclosed PRCC application for admission, ACT scores and high school transcript or GED transcript and college transcripts from every college you have attended to the following address:

**Pearl River Community College
Attention: (OTA)
5448 US Highway 49 South
Hattiesburg, MS 39401**

Also included in this packet is an application to the Occupational Therapy Assistant program that needs to be completed and forwarded to the following address:

Thank you for your interest in our program. If we may be of any assistance to you during the application process, please do not hesitate to call me at **601-554-5541** or our secretary, Cheryl Breland at **601-554-5507**.

Sincerely yours,

Tim Pulver

Tim Pulver, OTR/L
Occupational Therapy Program Director
5448 U.S. Hwy. 49 South Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Phone: (601) 554-5507 Fax: (601) 554-5511
Diane C. Stringer, COTA, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator 601-554-5485

THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROFESSION

Occupational therapy is a health and rehabilitation profession that helps individuals achieve *independence* in their lives despite disabilities. Occupational therapy practitioners work with people of all ages who, because of physical, developmental, social, or emotional problems, need specialized assistance to lead productive and satisfying lives.

People who might need occupational therapy are:

- people with work-related injuries.
- people who have had a stroke or heart attack.
- people with arthritis, multiple sclerosis, or other serious illnesses.
- children with birth injuries, learning problems, or developmental disabilities.
- people with mental health or behavioral problems, including Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia, and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- people with substance abuse problems or eating disorders.
- people with burns, spinal cord injuries, or amputations
- people with broken bones or other injuries from sports, falls, or accidents.
- people at risk for losing their driver's license due to visual or cognitive problems.

Occupational Therapy puts knowledge and experience to work in designing specific programs to help individuals regain their well-being and productive "occupation". The meaning of occupation is most important. Rather than merely referring to a person's employment, occupation refers to all the vital and meaningful daily activities that individuals engage in. The focus of occupational therapy is to increase quality of life with respect to each person's individuality and station in life.

Occupational Therapy practitioners are skilled professionals. The registered occupational therapist (OTR) enters the field with a master's or doctoral degree. The certified occupational therapy assistant (COTA) earns an associate's degree. A COTA works in cooperative relationship with the Registered Occupational Therapist who is responsible for supervision of treatment activities.

Occupational Therapy practitioners may be observed working in hospitals, rehabilitation units, in and out-patient clinics, adult day care, pediatric settings, long term psychiatric institutions, mental health centers, home health, private practice, academics school systems, nursing homes and other new emerging settings.

Occupational Therapy is a dynamic and fulfilling profession for those who desire to assist others in maximizing their quality of life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program?

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Pearl River Community college is a twenty-month full-time program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MA 20824-1220). We have a state-of-the-art facility located on the Hattiesburg campus on the second floor of the Allied Health Building. We can accommodate about 20 students per year.

How do I apply to the OTA program?

Fill out a short OTA application form and a PRCC application form; send your ACT score and transcripts from all colleges you have attended as well as your high school transcript or GED. Please signify "attention OTA program" on all materials sent.

When does the program start and when is the deadline to apply?

The program starts in August of each year, however, the deadline to apply is May 1st. Please note under special circumstances students may be admitted who, for reasons other than tardiness, have not been able to meet this deadline.

How is admission into the OTA program determined?

It is determined by a weighting system which takes into account academic history, ACT score, and an interview. The ACT and academic history are the primary determinants of which applicants will be invited for an interview.

What prerequisites are necessary to enter the OTA program?

Only two prerequisite classes are required to be completed before initiating the OTA course sequence are BIO 1514/1524 or 2514/2524 (Anatomy and Physiology I & II or A&P for Allied Health I & II). Please note that this prerequisite can be taken during the summer following admission into the OTA program in May. It will count for the students required Math/Science academic elective as well. It is very advisable to complete as many academic requirements for associates degree as possible prior to initiation of OTA curriculum to allow for maximal focus upon OTA classwork.

Does the OTA program require "observation hours" to apply?

We do not require that you observe Occupational Therapy. However, we **strongly** encourage all prospective students to adequately expose themselves to the field prior to application.

Statistics:

Year	# of students started OTA program	# of OTA Program Graduates	NBCOT certification exam: 1st-time test takers	NBCOT exam: 1st-time test takers who passed exam	NBCOT: Percentage of 1st-time test takers who passed exam
2007	25	23	23	20	87%
2008	25	19	18	14	78%
2009	25	22	22	18	82%
Total	75	64	63	52	83%

Is there anything else I should know?

To complete the OTA program you must complete 16 weeks of fieldwork to graduate. You have 18 months to meet this requirement after your classroom work is completed. Once you have completed the program, you must pass a National Certification Examination which is required to gain licensure in most states. If you have a felony conviction you may be prevented from taking the exam. This possible restriction is handled on a case-specific basis by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. All graduates since 2001 who passed their exam were able to gain employment as a COTA.

YEAR I

First Semester (FALL)

Tuition	810.00
Lab Fee	301.00
Technology Fee	25.00
Registration Fee	25.00
Books	550.00 estimated
Uniforms, Scrubs 2 sets	40.00
Health Examination includes:	100.00 estimated
TB skin test	
RPR	
Drug Screening	
Hepatitis Vaccination (series of 3)	145.00 estimated
Liability Insurance	15.00
Name tags	9.00 each

Second Semester (Spring)

Tuition (Full-time)	810.00
Lab Fee	301.00
Books	280.00 estimated
Technology Fee	25.00
Registration Fee	25.00

Third Semester (SUMMER)

Tuition	86.00 per semester hr. (Approximately 1032.00)
Lab Fee	301.00
Technology Fee	25.00
Registration Fee	25.00
Books	240.00 estimated

YEAR II

Fourth Semester (FALL)

Tuition	810.00
Lab Fee	301.00
Technology Fee	25.00
Registration Fee	25.00
Books	400.00

Fifth Semester (final) (SPRING)

Tuition	810.00
Lab Fee	301.00
Technology Fee	25.00
Registration Fee	25.00
COTA Pins (optional)	26.00
Graduation	36.00

Professional Organization Dues

Pearl River Occupational Therapy Student Association	5.00 per semester
Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association	10.00
American Occupational Therapy Association	53.00 yearly

Post Graduation

National Certification Examination	485.00
Mississippi Practice permit (Limited Permit)	200.00

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The Occupational Therapist Assistant (OTA) Program is a two-year program of study that prepares the students to work within the practice of occupational therapy. Pearl River Community College's Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is accredited with the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at:

AOTA
4720 Montgomery Lane
P.O. Box 31220
Bethesda, MD 20824-1220
Phone Number: 301-652-2682

Graduates of the OTA Program are awarded the Associate of Applied Science Degree and will be able to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant administered by the National Board of Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA). Most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION

To be considered for admission to the OTA Program, the following information must be in the OTA office at the Forrest County Center of PRCC in completed form by **May 1, at 4:00 p.m.** Applications will be accepted year around.

1. Transcript of all college and high school course work.
2. ACT score(s) results. (Applicants who have taken the ACT prior to October 1989 will have their results converted to the Enhanced ACT scores i.e. a score of 15 prior to October 1989 converts to an 18 on the Enhanced ACT.)

ADMISSIONS

Admission to the OTA program is competitive based on ACT scores and GPA. Applicants are "ranked" according to an Admission Point Scale. The Admission Point Scale will identify students who have potential for success in the OTA program. The OTA faculty will compile a list of candidates according to "rank" on the point scale for a personal interview. Interview points, in addition to total ranking points, will determine the applicant's admission into the OTA program. Points granted at the interview will be largely based on: (1) verbal and nonverbal communication skills including writing skills; (2) knowledge of the field of Occupational Therapy and the role of the COTA, and (3) appearance. Applications will be taken until **May 1st**, with interviews being held the 2nd or 3rd week of May. All applicants should be notified in writing, by June 1st of their admission status unless otherwise stated or noted.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. **Two** prerequisites are required to be completed (or to be scheduled to be completed) prior to beginning of first semester of OTA Program coursework: **BIO 1514/1524 or 2514/2524 (Anatomy and Physiology I & II or A & P for Allied Health I & II).**
2. All OTA courses (courses with the OTA prefix) must be passed with a “**C**” average or better in order to continue to the next OTA course in the curriculum sequence.
3. Failure to maintain a “**C**” average or better in each OTA course following admission to the program will result in dismissal. However, students are entitled to reapply to the program, and upon readmission, repeat the failed class the next time it is offered. Exceptions to this policy is the first “**D**” a student receives in OTA course and fieldwork courses which may be made up in subsequent semesters and is handled on an individual basis by the program director and fieldwork coordinator. Please see the OTA student manual for more information.
4. Liability insurance must be obtained before initiating Level I Fieldwork and must be maintained until completion of program. Liability insurance can be obtained through school services at a group rate of approximately \$15.00 per year during student enrollment in the OTA program.
5. A health examination, including TB test, RPR (Rapid Plasma Reagin) and drug screening must be obtained within three (3) months of beginning Level I Fieldwork. A student accepting the Hepatitis B vaccination series should also expect an additional expense. An acceptance or declination of the Hepatitis B vaccination form must also be completed before beginning Level I Fieldwork.
6. The student will be required to complete two eight-week Level II Fieldwork clinical rotations. These clinical rotations are often assigned with contracted facilities within the state of Mississippi. However, facilities in surrounding states may be utilized to allow the student the most appropriate educational experience.

EXPLANATION OF FEES

Students will be required to pay 1/3 of the total tuition and fees at time of registration/validation unless financial aid has been granted and registered with the Financial Aid Office.

Total tuition and fees must be paid in full prior to final examinations. Failure to complete payment by the final examination date will result in your inability to access your grade report. Students must pay the previous balance in addition to 1/3 of the current semester before being considered eligible for registration of the semester.

Curriculum for Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Associate in Applied Science

Prerequisites: (students may be admitted to program with *scheduled* completion of prerequisites, even if not completed)
BIO 1514/1524 or 2514/2524 – Anatomy and Physiology I & II or A&P for Allied Health I & II; this prerequisite will count for the required Math Science academic elective.

FRESHMAN YEAR

Semester Hours

Fall Semester 1st Semester

OTA 1113	Foundations of Occupational Therapy	3
OTA 1213	Pathology of Psychiatric Conditions	3
OTA 1121	Medical Terminology	1
OTA 1423	Occupational Therapy Skills I	3
OTA 1132	Therapeutic Anatomy	2
OTA 1513	Group Process	3
<academic>**	Social/Behavioral Elective (if not taken already)	3

Spring Semester 2nd Semester

OTA 1315	Kinesiology	5
OTA 1413	Therapeutic Media	3
OTA 1223	Pathology of Physical Disability Condt.	3
OTA 1433	Occupational Therapy Skills II	3

Summer Semester 3rd Semester

OTA 1913	Level I Fieldwork: Psychosocial/Specialty	3
OTA 1233	Pathology of Developmental Conditions	3
OTA 1242	Pathology of Orthopedic Conditions	2
OTA 2812	Healthcare systems	2
<academic>**	Written Communications Elective(if not taken already)	3

SOPHOMORE YEAR

Fall Semester 4th Semester

OTA 2443	Occupational Therapy Skills III	3
OTA 2714	Concepts in Occupational Therapy	3
OTA 2935	Level I Fieldwork: Physical Disabilities/ Pediatrics/Specialty	5
OTA 2961	Occupational Therapy Transitions I	1
<academic>**	Oral Communications Elective(if not taken already)	3
<academic>**	Fine Arts/Humanities Elective(if not taken already)	3

Spring Semester 2nd Semester

OTA 2946	Level II Fieldwork A	6 (8wks)
OTA 2956	Level II Fieldwork B	6 (8wks)
OTA 2971	Occupational Therapy Transitions II	1

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: Prerequisites (8) + other academics (12) + OTA courses (65) =85

**** It is strongly recommended, but not required, that the student take some of the elective courses prior to entering the program in order to lessen the course load while in the program.**

**Check List for Application to the
Occupational Therapy Assistant Program**

****THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE SUT
DEPARTMENT NO LATER THAN **4 P.M., MAY 1**. DOCUMENTS
MAY BE HAND DELIVERED TO **ROOM 244 OF THE ALLIED
HEALTH BUILDING******

*****ALL DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AS ONE (1)
COMPLETE PACKET TO THE OTA DEPARTMENT.*****

- ____ 1. Completed Pearl River Community College Application
- ____ 2. Completed Occupational Therapy Assistant Application
- ____ 3. ACT scores
- ____ 4. High School Transcript
- ____ 5. College Transcript (including PRCC)
- ____ 6. E-mail address: _____ @ _____
(This will be used to contact you concerning your OTA application)

These items must be received, from the applicant, in hard copy form
in the OTA department, regardless of copies being in any other
department, including PRCC Admissions department.

*****IF YOU ARE NOT A PRESENT STUDENT OF PEARL RIVER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALL OF THE ABOVE ITEMS; EXCEPT THE
OTA APPLICATION, MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE ADMISSIONS
OFFICE, ALSO. TRANSCRIPTS FOR THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE MUST
BE OFFICIAL.**

FORMER STUDENTS OF PRCC:

If you attended Pearl River Community College prior to 1999, you are
required to submit new documentation, including application,
transcripts and ACT scores. They are no longer on file.

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT RELEASE FORM

**Notice to School: Please send an official Transcript for the following
Pearl River Community College program applicant.**

Name: _____

(Last) (Maiden) (First) (Middle)

Date of Attendance/Graduation: _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____

I am requesting the records department of

(Name of High School/College you attended)

to release my transcript to: **Pearl River Community College
Occupational Therapy Assistant Prgm.
5448 US Hwy 49 South
Hattiesburg, MS 39401**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTICE TO APPLICANT: Please be sure to send this form to the school
that you need the transcript request from. Do not send to PRCC –
Occupational Therapy Assistant department., if you do and we do not
receive your transcript(s), by the **May 1st deadline**, your file may be
considered incomplete.

If you are a current or former student of PRCC, you will need to contact the
Admissions Office of PRCC to have your transcripts (including a copy of
your PRCC transcript), your PRCC general admissions application and ACT
scores sent to the MLT department. You may call OTA office for
confirmation of receipt of your application at any time you desire.

**** DO NOT SEND THIS FORM BACK TO PRCC- OTA OFFICE;
SEND IT TO YOUR HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE.
IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEND THIS FORM TO THE
NECESSARY SCHOOL(S).****