

East Central College

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OTA Inquiries

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East Central College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a participant in the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP)
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THE CAREER

Occupational therapy assistants work under the direction of occupational therapists to provide rehabilitative services to persons with mental, physical, emotional or developmental impairments. The ultimate goal is to improve clients' quality of life and ability to perform daily activities.

For example, occupational therapy assistants help injured workers re-enter the labor force by teaching them how to compensate for lost motor skills or help individuals with learning disabilities increase their independence. Occupational therapy assistants work in a variety of settings including long-term care, acute and outpatient rehabilitation centers, school districts and home care.

EMPLOYMENT AND SALARY INFORMATION

The occupational therapy assistant profession is experiencing high job growth, per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. By 2026, the number of positions is projected to increase by 28 percent.

In May 2018, the industries employing the largest numbers of occupational therapy assistants and their annual median salaries were:

Offices of Other Health Practitioners	\$60,440
Nursing Care Facilities	\$65,930
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	\$55,680
Elementary and Secondary Schools	\$50,380
Home Health Care Services	\$65,330

ADMISSION PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS

Students must meet both institution-specific criteria and program-specific criteria to enter this course of study. East Central requires all students to have completed their high school diploma or equivalent, the ECC application for admission and a placement test as specified by the college.

Enrollment in the MHPC Occupational Therapy Assistant program is selective and an information packet with application materials is available online or at the Union campus. Students must complete all general education coursework PRIOR to entry into the professional-level program. However, students can complete coursework in the semester prior to the start of the program.

Under these circumstances, program admission would be contingent upon successful completion of general education prerequisite coursework and maintenance of the required 2.5 GPA. Transcript evidence of satisfactory completion of general education/prerequisite coursework must be received with the application packet.

ECC may not be able to offer admission to all qualified applicants. Only students meeting all admission criteria and submitting completed application packets within the established timeframe will be considered. The selection committee meeting is conducted the summer before the start of the professional year. Admission decisions of the selection committee are final. Applicants will receive a letter regarding admission status following committee review.

THE PROGRAM

The AAS in Occupational Therapy Assistant is a one-plus-one degree program which prepares students to practice as certified occupational therapy assistants (COTA) after meeting certification and state licensure standards. East Central is one of five colleges in the Missouri Health Professions Consortium (MHPC) currently selected to offer the program coordinated through State Fair Community College. ECC offers and enrolls students in the general education coursework; sophomore level (professional level) coursework is conveyed to ECC students via interactive television and Internet-based technology. Through the combination of general education, professional-level coursework, classroom, laboratory practice and clinical fieldwork experiences, students learn the profession of occupational therapy assistant. The professional year does not run on a traditional ECC academic cycle; rather, classes begin the Monday after New Year's Day and run through the end of the fall semester. Completion of professional year coursework takes one full calendar year.

ACCREDITATION

The MHPC Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Following successful completion of coursework and passing of the certification exam, individuals will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). Even with successful coursework completion, students may be prohibited from sitting for the NBCOT Certification Exam if they have a felony conviction.

In Missouri, state licensure is required in order to practice and acquisition of a license is contingent upon passing the NBCOT Certification Exam.

For more information regarding accreditation, please contact the American Occupational Therapy Association:
ACOTE c/o Accreditation Department
American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) 4720
Montgomery Lane, Suite 200
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3449
Phone: 301-652-2682 • TDD: 800-377-8555

TRANSFER OPTIONS

Articulation agreements provide students who have graduated from the Missouri Health Professionals Consortium OTA Program the opportunity to complete a Bachelor of Health Science degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia. While a bachelor's degree is not required to practice as an OTA, students who have earned an AAS in Occupational Therapy Assistant from the MHPC OTA Program are guaranteed that 60 credit hours will transfer to UMC if they wish to pursue this additional degree.

For other four-year transfer institutions; many of the credits are accepted as transfer credit. Please note that transferring credit is decided by the bachelor degree-granting institution, not ECC. Students who are seeking transfer are advised to contact the four-year institutions regarding transferability before beginning a program offered through East Central College.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

PROGRAM OF STUDY

AAS Program (82 credit hours)

This program of study is for a full-time student. Please contact an academic advisor for full course options. All academic schedules are subject to change. For the most current schedule visit www.eastcentral.edu.

PREREQUISITES/GENERAL EDUCATION

Prior to entering the program, students must complete the following courses and meet the required 2.5 cumulative GPA:

COURSE	HOURS
COL 101 Foundation Seminar*	1
ENG 101 English Comp I*	3
BIO 206 Human Anatomy & Physiology I Lecture/Lab*P	4
BIO 207 Human Anatomy & Physiology II Lecture/Lab*P	5
PSY 101 General Psychology*	3
PSY 250 Human Development*	3
SOC 101 General Sociology	3
MTH 110/140/150 Intermediate Algebra, Contemporary Math, Statistics (or higher)*	3
COM 101 Oral Communication (or)	3
COM 110 Public Speaking	3
HSC 113 Medical Terminology	3
HST 101 History or Political Science Requirement	3
HST 102	3
PSC 102	3
PSC CIVICS Civics Achievement Exam (pass/fail)	0
Total Hours	34

* Coursework has a prerequisite or entry level test requirement.

Contact an academic advisor and/or course description for requirements and course sequence.

** Fieldwork requirements must be satisfied within 12 months of academic coursework.

P Prerequisites for Human Anatomy & Physiology I and II Lecture/Lab:

- CHM 106 Chemistry for Health Science Lecture/Lab or one year high school chemistry with lab (must have at least a "C" grade within the last five years)

- BI 1305 General Biology Lecture/Lab or two years high school biology with lab (must have at least a "C" grade within the last five years)

All science courses must not be older than five years prior to entrance into the program.

MHPC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM (48 CREDIT HOURS)

PROFESSIONAL YEAR-EACH JANUARY

SEMESTER 1

COURSE	HOURS
OTA 206 Foundations of Occupational Therapy	4
OTA 205 Medical Conditions in Occupational Therapy	3
OTA 210 Analysis of Occupations	2
OTA 215 Mental Health and Psychosocial Practice	4
OTA 220 Pediatric & Adolescent Practice	4
Total Hours	17

SEMESTER 2

COURSE	HOURS
OTA 250 Functional Kinesiology	2
OTA 255 Physical Disabilities Practice	4
OTA 260 Community Practice	3
OTA 265 Ethics, Leadership, and Management	3
OTA 259 Professional Skills-Capstone	3
Total Hours	15

SEMESTER 3

COURSE	HOURS
OTA 290 Level II Fieldwork A**	8
OTA 295 Level II Fieldwork B**	8
Total Hours	16