

East Central College

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Division

Nursing and Allied Health
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East Central College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a participant in the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP)
30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2400
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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 2020, the number of positions is projected to increase by 41 percent.

In May 2014, the industries employing the largest numbers of occupational therapy assistants and their annual median salaries were:

Offices of Other Health Practitioners	\$59,000
Nursing Care Facilities	\$60,790
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	\$50,970
Elementary and Secondary Schools	\$46,800
Home Health Care Services	\$67,180

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 the University of Missouri, School of Health Professions. ECC offers and enrolls students in the general education coursework; sophomore level (professional level) coursework originates from a classroom located on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus and 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
FS 1000/ FS 1001 Campus Orientation/ Foundation Seminar*	1
EN 1223 English Comp I*	3
BI 2104 Human Anatomy & Physiology I Lecture/Lab* P	4
BI 2115 Human Anatomy & Physiology II Lecture/Lab*	5
PY 2403 Human Development*	3
PY 1103 General Psychology*	3
SO 1103 General Sociology	3
MT 1303 Intermediate Algebra (or higher)*	3
CT 1003 Oral Communications or CT 1103 Public Speaking	3
HS 1113 Medical Terminology	3
HI 1000/ PS 1000 Constitutions Study Module	0
History or Political Science Requirement	3
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:

- SC 1000 Lab Safety for Students
- CH 1005 Introduction to Chemistry Lecture/Lab
- BI 1305 General Biology Lecture/Lab or two years high school biology with lab (must have at least a "B" 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
OT 2004 Foundations of Occupational Therapy	4
OT 2053 Medical Conditions in Occupational Therapy	3
OT 2102 Analysis of Occupations	2
OT 2154 Mental Health and Psychosocial Practice	4
OT 2204 Pediatric & Adolescent Practice	4
Total Hours	17

SEMESTER 2

COURSE	HOURS
OT 2502 Functional Kinesiology	2
OT 2554 Physical Disabilities Practice	4
OT 2603 Community Practice	3
OT 2653 Ethics, Leadership, and Management	3
OT 2703 Professional Skills-Capstone	3
Total Hours	15

SEMSTER 3

COURSE	HOURS
OT 2908 Level II Fieldwork A**	8
OT 2958 Level II Fieldwork B**	8
Total Hours	16