

Occupational Therapy Assistant

NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH

636.584.6616

eastcentral.edu/nursing/occupational-therapy-assistant



PROGRAM

The AAS in Occupational Therapy Assistant is a one-plus-one hybrid 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. Through the combination of general education, professional-level coursework, classroom, laboratory practice and clinical fieldwork experiences, students learn the profession of occupational therapy assistant.



EMPLOYMENT & SALARY OPPORTUNITIES

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



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.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To enter the program, students must have completed:

- **High school diploma or the equivalent**
(documentation must be sent to the registration office)
- **Application for admission to ECC**
- **A placement test as specified by the college**
(some coursework requires minimum placement results)
- **A cumulative college GPA of 2.5 or better**
- **Prerequisites with a "C" or better prior to starting the program**
- **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.**

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Program Prerequisites/Gen Ed

Prior to entering the program, students must complete the following prerequisite coursework and meet the required 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Course		Hours
• COL*100	Campus Orientation	0.0
• COL*101	Falcon Seminar	1.0
• ENG*101	English Comp I	3.0
• BIO*206	Human Anatomy & Physiology I Lec & Lab	4.0
• BIO*207	Human Anatomy & Physiology II Lec & Lab	5.0
• PSY*101	General Psychology	3.0
• PSY*250	Human Development	3.0
• SOC*101	General Sociology	3.0
• MTH*110/140/150	Int. Algebra, Cont. Math, Statistics or higher	3.0
• COM	Core 42 Oral Communication	3.0
• HSC*113	Medical Terminology	3.0
• HST/PSC	Core 42 Civics	3.0
• PSC*CIVICS	Civics Achievement Exam	0.0
Total:		34.0

MHPC Occupational Therapy Assistant Program (48 Credit Hours)

Fall		Hours
• OTA*200	Foundations of Occupational Therapy	3.0
• OTA*205	Medical Conditions in Occupational Therapy	3.0
• OTA*210	Activity Analysis & Therapeutic Media	3.0
• OTA*215	Mental Health & Geriatric Practice	4.0
• OTA*220	Pediatric & Adolescent Practice	4.0
Total:		17.0
Spring		Hours
• OTA*250	Functional Kinesiology	2.0
• OTA*255	Physical Disabilities Practice	4.0
• OTA*259	Professional Skills	3.0
• OTA*260	Community Practice & Emerging Practice in OT	3.0
• OTA*265	Ethics, Management & Leadership	3.0
Total:		15.0
Summer		Hours
• OTA*290	Level II Fieldwork A	8.0
• OTA*295	Level II Fieldwork B	8.0
Total:		16.0

*OTA is a hybrid program. Coursework is delivered via internet-based technology. Labs and clinical fieldwork are in person.