OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, A.S. (BERKS)

Begin Campus: Berks
End Campus: Berks

Entrance to Major
The Occupational Therapy Assistant program admits students to begin in the fall semester.

Incoming first-year and transfer students who meet the program and campus admission requirements are admitted directly into the major. For more information about the admission process for this major, please send a request to the campus undergraduate admission office or to the program contact (listed in the Contact tab of the Bulletin).

First year students include those who have graduated from high school and have attempted fewer than 18 semester hours of college coursework at another college or university after high school graduation.

The minimum high school units required for admission to the Occupational Therapy Assistant program include four secondary units of English, two units of mathematics (including one unit of algebra), two units of science (one unit must be biology), and five units of arts, humanities, social studies, and/or foreign languages.

Although the minimum high school GPA required for admission is a 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale), this does not guarantee admissions into the program. The program is competitive; therefore, applicants who submit their application to Penn State by December 31 will be reviewed on a space available basis.

Transfer Applicants
In addition to a cumulative grade-point average, it is recommended that a transfer applicant should have demonstrated successful completion of at least three (3) credits of natural science with a lab and one (1) social science related course from another institution. These types of courses may include (but are not limited to) mammalian anatomy, physiology, chemistry, psychology, sociology, and other core biological, chemical, and social sciences. The admissions selection committee strives to select students who have demonstrated the potential to succeed in a rigorous, science-oriented program of study.

* OT does not offer an advanced placement option for coursework for credit for experiential learning in the OTA program.
* OT does not require prerequisite education or work-related experience for admission to the OTA program.

Change of Major
Requests will be considered for entrance into the OTP Program based on academic performance and space available in the OTA Program.

Students who wish to change their major must have a cumulative collegiate grade-point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale as the minimum University requirement for change of major consideration. In general, change of major to the Occupational Therapy Assistant program requires a substantially higher cumulative grade-point average. The number of qualified applicants typically exceeds the number of available program spaces; therefore, satisfaction of the minimum requirements does not guarantee approval for entrance to major.

In addition to a cumulative grade-point average, it is recommended that all change of major applicants should have demonstrated successful completion of at least one (1) laboratory based biological and one (1) social science related course prior to the January review.

Biological and Life Sciences (one lecture and one lab)
- BIOL 161/BIOL 162: Anatomy & Physiology I
- BIOL 163/BIOL 164: Anatomy & Physiology II

Social and Behavioral Sciences (choose at least one)
- PSYCH 100: General Psychology
- HDFS 129: Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies or PSYCH 212

Additional Information
Students are responsible for proof of liability insurance and other requirements, including criminal background checks and health information specified by the facility providing supervised field experience.

A felony conviction on record may impact a student’s ability to sit for the certification examination administered by NBCOT after graduation; this can subsequently impact a graduate’s ability to attain state licensure. Before applying to the OTA program, students can contact NBCOT for information on their early determination program to assess examination eligibility. Contact NBCOT at https://www.nbcoot.org/ for more information.

Retention Requirements
OTA Student Academic Success
Students in the Associate in Science in Occupational Therapy Program must earn a grade of C or better in: BIOL 161, BIOL 162, BIOL 163, BIOL 164, PSYCH 100, HDFS 129 or PSYCH 212, OT 100, OT 101, OT 103, OT 205, OT 207, OT 209, OT 210W, OT 212, OT 214, and OT 216.

As outlined in the course syllabi and the Associate Degree Programs Bulletin, students must earn passing grades in prerequisite occupational therapy courses to enroll in subsequent occupational therapy courses. Students will take the OT didactic courses offered in each semester, concurrently and in the prescribed sequence, since the curriculum is a progressive learning model. Level II fieldwork is completed only after the OT didactic courses and all general education requirements are successfully completed. Level II fieldwork must be completed within 18 months after completion of didactic coursework.

Ongoing Progression in the OTA Program
As per ACOTE Standard 3.4 Criteria for Successful Completion and A.3.5 Evaluation with Student on a Regular Basis, the faculty and administration will provide students regular feedback about their academic standing. Regarding successful completion of the OTA program there are instances where progression in the program is non-negotiable as follows:

1. A student who earns a D or F in any two OT didactic and/or fieldwork courses will not be allowed to continue in the program. Examples include but are not limited to: Failure of (OT 103 and OT 295E) or (OT 195E and OT 395A) or (OT 101 and OT 210W).
2. A student may be disenrolled from the program for a violation of the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics and/or Penn State Academic Integrity Policy G-9.

3. A student may not progress to the 3rd semester of the curriculum until BIOL 161, BIOL 162, BIOL 163, and BIOL 164 have been successfully completed with a C or better. If BIOL courses are not successfully passed by 3rd semester, the student may withdraw from the University or remain active and return to 3rd semester of prescribed OT courses the following year with the approval of Program Director.

4. Students must maintain a minimum grade point of 2.0 to be eligible to engage in Fieldwork Level I & II (OT 195E, OT 295E, OT 395A and OT 395B).