

Philosophy of the OCCC Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

The Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program at Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) is guided by a philosophy that reflects the fundamental beliefs of the faculty and serves as the foundation for the curriculum. These principles shape the educational experience and professional development of students, preparing them for meaningful contributions as Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTAs) in diverse healthcare and community settings.

We believe:

1. Every individual has the right to a meaningful life that fulfills their needs for purpose, self-worth, security, love, companionship, identity, and recreation.
2. Every individual has the right to pursue their highest level of function, recognizing that ability is unique to each person and influenced by personal choice, effort, and opportunity.
3. Engagement in purposeful activity positively impacts a person's physical, cognitive, emotional, and social well-being.
4. Individuals develop skills and grow through participation in meaningful occupations, including self-care, work, and leisure, with necessary adaptations supporting their success.
5. The ability to adapt and function is shaped by a person's developmental process and social environment, emphasizing the dynamic relationship between individuals and their surroundings.
6. Health is holistic, encompassing physical, mental, and emotional well-being. A change in any one aspect of a person's life impacts the whole person, reinforcing the importance of a comprehensive approach to care.
7. Effective OTA education requires an integrated approach, combining didactic instruction with hands-on learning. The curriculum incorporates role-play, group activities, case studies, and simulated clinical experiences, using current technology to enhance student engagement and competency.
8. The OTA program at OCCC is committed to preparing students for workforce readiness, ensuring they graduate with the knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors necessary for success in diverse occupational therapy settings. Through evidence-based education, interventions that are adaptable and inclusive of individual backgrounds and needs, and interprofessional collaboration, graduates will be workforce-ready, adaptable, and prepared to meet the evolving demands of healthcare and rehabilitation services.
9. Lifelong learning is an essential component of professional competency. The OTA program fosters a commitment to ongoing education, ensuring graduates remain ethically responsible, competent practitioners who engage in continuous professional development to serve and protect the public.