Train for a rewarding career helping patients of all ages live life to the fullest

Complete your degree in as few as 16 months full-time

Classes are offered during the evening and on weekends

Associate Degree in
Occupational Therapy Assistant

Make a career out of caring for others with an OTA degree

Occupational Therapy is a specialized treatment that helps individuals achieve independence in all facets of their lives. If you enjoy caring for others and want to help them achieve independent and satisfying lives, then a career as an occupational therapy assistant is right for you.

Our Occupational Therapy Assistant associate degree program will prepare you to care for clients who are limited by a physical illness or injury, an emotional disorder, a developmental disability, or the aging process. As an Occupational Therapy Assistant, you will work under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist and will apply functional activities and therapeutic modalities as methods of treatment. Therapy focuses on assisting clients in restoring or maintaining independence in everyday life skills.

You will gain hands-on experience through: training in activities of daily living; adapting home, work, and school environments; vocational training; and therapeutic use of functional activities. As part of your clinical work, you will learn from experienced, practicing Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants within a variety of healthcare and community settings.

Upon graduation, you will be qualified to sit for the national certification administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, you will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant. Connecticut requires a license in order to practice occupational therapy and the license is based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination.

Goodwin University

For more information, contact:
800-889-3282
goodwin.edu/contactus

Associate Degree in
Occupational Therapy Assistant

Non-major core requirements: 3 credits		
PSY 212	Lifespan Development	3
General education core: 26 credits		
ENG 101	English Composition	3
ENG 1XX	English Elective	3
MATH 1XX	Mathematics (MATH)	3
CAP 115	Learning and Working Through Digital Technologies	3
BIO 211	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BIO 212	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
PSY 112	Introduction to Psychology	3
	Humanities (HIS, PHIL, SPAN, HUM)	3
Major core requirements: 36 credits		
Semester one		
OTA 100	Occupational Therapy Foundations and Fieldwork IA	3
OTA 101	Foundations of Movement and Function	3
OTA 105	Foundations of Behavioral Health and the Occupational Therapy Assistant	1
Semester two		
OTA 214	Principles of Adult Populations and the Occupational Therapy Assistant	4
OTA 215	Principles of Pediatric Populations and the Occupational Therapy Assistant	4
Semester three		
OTA 216	Principles of Geriatric Populations and the Occupational Therapy Assistant	4
OTA 217	Principles of Group Dynamics and the Occupational Therapy Assistant	2
OTA 218	Case Studies Across the Lifespan and Fieldwork 1B	4
Semester four		
OTA 220	Occupational Therapy Assistant Seminar	1
OTA 250	Advanced Fieldwork Level IIA	5
OTA 260	Advanced Fieldwork Level IIB	5

Total credits: 65

Program facts

- Student acceptance is based on the top 20 applicants who meet admission criteria (see academic catalog for the OTA Admission Criteria Point System)
- Academic coursework is primarily evening/weekend with clinical fieldwork during the day
- Students will engage in hybrid/online coursework on a limited basis
- Students will complete coursework in the 15-week on-ground format with use of Canvas for course content and assignments to supplement in-class work

Graduation requirements

Students must complete all of the general associate graduation requirements as stated in the catalog. In addition, students must complete the following programmatic graduation requirements:

- Complete all Occupational Therapy Assistant core courses with a minimum grade of "C+"
- Complete BIO 211 and BIO 212, or equivalent, with a minimum grade of "C+" or higher — fieldwork IIA and IIB must be completed within 18 months of completion of all academic coursework

Job opportunities include:

- Alternative community settings
- Assisted living facilities
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Outpatient centers
- Pediatrics
- Private homes
- Rehabilitation centers
- Schools

Goodwin University is a nonprofit institution of higher education and is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), formerly known as the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Upon graduation, you will be qualified to sit for the national certification administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, you will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant. Connecticut requires a license in order to practice occupational therapy and the license is based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. In addition to Connecticut, other states including Massachusetts and Rhode Island also require state licensure in order to practice after completing a program at an occupational therapy assistant school.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's telephone number, c/o AOTA, is (301) 652-AOTA, and its web address is www.acoteonline.org. The occupational therapy assistant program at Goodwin University, East Hartford, Connecticut, was placed on Probationary Accreditation effective April 6, 2025, because the area of noncompliance related to 2018 Standard A.6.4. Certification Exam Pass Rate is so serious that the program's capability to provide acceptable education experience for the students is threatened. A Progress Report will be submitted for the June 2025 meeting detailing analysis and implementation of the program's plan to successfully regain compliance of the 2018 Standard A.6.4. Full details of the program's accredited status are available on the American Occupational Therapy Association's website.

Goodwin University

For more information, contact:
800-889-3282
goodwin.edu/contactus