

# LaGuardia Community College Occupational Therapy Assistant Program



## Admission Guide



## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM QUICK FACT SHEET

- An Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) is a graduate from an accredited Associates degree program who is New York State licensed and works under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist. Occupational therapy assistants provide treatment according to a plan developed by or in collaboration with a licensed occupational therapist. They must work under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist or a licensed physician.
- The OTA program at LaGuardia is 63 credits and consists of a pre-clinical (pre-requisites) and clinical (OTA courses) phase.
- The clinical phase is a full time day or evening program and is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is accredited by ACOTE, The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200 Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. AOTA's telephone number is (301) 652-6611 or (800) SAY-AOTA (729-2682).
- Students must be an OTA major to apply for candidacy. A change of major form must be signed by the OTA Program Director.
- Acceptance to the clinical phase is limited to 20 students twice per year and is competitive. Students must file for and be accepted into candidacy in order to progress to the clinical phase.
- Application to candidacy takes place in the Spring I and Fall I semesters. Students must be in or have completed all four key courses (ENG 101, SSY 101, SCB 203 and one of the following: MAT115, MAT 117, MAT 119, OR MAT 120) with a 2.5 or better to qualify for candidacy. Students are ranked according to GPA and the top 20 students are admitted. **All** key course grades on the student's record are counted for candidacy even if the student repeats a course. A key course grade of 2.5 or better does NOT guarantee admission to the clinical phase.
- All students are required to take the ATI-TEAS exam as a requirement for candidacy. A **Proficient** score (55% or higher) on the TEAS (Nursing or Allied Health) is required for candidacy application. The TEAS score must be within 18 months of the end date of candidacy. There is no limit on the number of attempts for this exam.
- Information on the OTA program can be found at [www.laguardia.edu/OTA/](http://www.laguardia.edu/OTA/)
- Information on the field of Occupational Therapy can be found at [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)

## HEALTH SCIENCE PROGRAM: Occupational Therapy Assistant

PROGRAM/CODE	Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) major (541)
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION/ DEGREE	The OTA Program prepares graduates to function as OTAs under the supervision of occupational therapists to provide direct patient care. Upon completion of the program, students earn an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree. The OTA program is a full time program offered in both the day and extended day sessions. A part-time option is also available with the permission of the OTA Director.
MINIMUM GPA REQUIREMENT	Minimum GPA requirement to apply for candidacy is 2.50* *Please note: the program is highly competitive. The minimum GPA varies each semester. Students are ranked according to their GPA and the top 20 students are admitted.
LENGTH OF PROGRAM	The minimum time required to complete the entire program is two years and three months (5 enhanced semesters). Once pre-requisite courses (Pre-Clinical Phase) are completed, the Clinical Phase can be completed in 18 months.
CANDIDACY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidacy occurs twice a year, once in the Fall I semester and once in the Spring I semester. The candidacy deadlines are listed on the school calendar and it is the student's responsibility to apply for candidacy on time, in person, in C107.</li> <li>• The candidacy code for OTA is OTA000.4299.</li> <li>• Students must be in or have completed all four key courses (ENG101, SSY101, SCB203, and one of the following: MAT115, MAT117, MAT119, or MAT120) when applying for candidacy and have taken the ATI-TEAS exam (55% min.)</li> <li>• All requirements for candidacy are listed in the OTA Admission Handbook.</li> <li>• A student has two attempts for OTA Candidacy.</li> <li>• Students will be notified of the result in session II of the same semester.</li> <li>• Successful candidates will begin the Clinical Phase in session I of the following semester.</li> <li>• Accepted students must complete all 28 credits (10 courses) in the Pre-clinical phase by the end of session II of the semester of application for candidacy and before they start the Clinical Phase of the program.</li> <li>• Candidacy application made in the Fall I semester will be considered for entrance in the following Spring I semester: <u>Day Program</u></li> <li>• Candidacy application made in the Spring I semester will be considered for entrance in the following Fall I semester: <u>Extended Day Program</u></li> </ul>
STUDENTS ADMITTED	20
PASSING GRADE REQUIRED FOR SCIENCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students must have a minimum of 2.50 in all the key courses to be considered for candidacy. Please note that candidacy follows a GPA ranking system.</li> <li>• Students are not permitted to repeat any courses with a grade of C or above.</li> <li>• In addition a "C-, D, or F" grade in any key course is averaged into the ranking with the repeated grade.</li> </ul>
CLINICAL/FIELD WORK REQUIREMENTS	Students must complete 2 level I (part-time) and 2 level II (full-time 8-10 weeks) clinical placements during the clinical phase. CUNY does not require criminal background checks. Individual health care facilities may require drug screening, fingerprinting and a background check. Students are required to have a current medical exam with blood work (within 3 months) before beginning clinical rotation.
PROOF OF RESIDENCY	Required. See acceptable proof of residency in college catalog.
LICENSING EXAM REQUIREMENTS	At the completion of the program, students are eligible to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) for occupational therapy assistants. OTA graduates cannot practice as an occupational therapist assistant in New York without a NYS license. Eligibility for licensure is based upon successfully passing the NBCOT examination. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.
PROGRAM SPECIAL INFORMATION	All students are required to take the ATI-TEAS exam as a requirement for candidacy. A Proficient score (55% or higher) on the TEAS (Nursing or Allied Health) is required for candidacy application. The TEAS score must be within 18 months of the end date of candidacy. There is no limit on the number of attempts for this exam.

**Occupational Therapy Assistant Program  
Course Progression**

**Pre-Clinical Phase: 28 credits**

**English: 6 credits**

ENG101 English Composition	3
ENG102 Writing Through Literature	3

**Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning: 3 credits**

*Select ONE course from the following:*

MAT115 College Algebra and Trigonometry	3
MAT120 Elementary Statistics	3

**Health Science: 2 credits**

SCN195 Community Health	2
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**Life and Physical Sciences: 17 credits**

SCB203 Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
SCB204 Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
SSY101 General Psychology	3
SSY230 Abnormal Psychology	3
SSY240 Developmental Psychology I	3

**Clinical Phase: 35 credits**

**Fall I or Spring I:**

SCO101 Introduction to Occupational Therapy	3
SCO110 Legal and Ethical Issues in Occupational Therapy	2

**Fall II or Spring II:**

SCO200 Physical Aspects of Human Growth and Development	2
SCO230 Functional Pathology	3

**Fall I or Spring I:**

SCO114 Documentation in Occupational Therapy	2
SCO204 Occupational Therapy Process: Psychosocial Dysfunction & Geriatric Conditions	4
SCO214 Occupational Therapy Skills and Functional Activities I	3
SCO284 Occupational Therapy Clerkship for Psychosocial Dysfunction & Geriatric Conditions	1.5

**Fall II or Spring II:**

SCO294 Occupational Therapy Fieldwork in Psychosocial Dysfunction & Geriatric Conditions	2
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**Fall I or Spring I:**

SCO175 Clinical Reasoning in Occupational Therapy	2
SCO205 Occupational Therapy Process: Physical & Developmental Disabilities	4
SCO215 Occupational Therapy Skills and Functional Activities II	3
SCO285 Occupational Therapy Clerkship for Physical & Developmental Disabilities	1.5

**Fall II or Spring II:**

SCO295 Occupational Therapy Fieldwork in Physical & Developmental Disabilities	2
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