Occupational Therapy is a health rehabilitation profession that helps people of all ages to participate more fully in their day-to-day lives. Occupational therapy assistants work under the supervision of an occupational therapist to:

- Adapt home, work, school, and play environments
- Teach adapted techniques for greater independence in self-care, home care and work performance
- Consult with businesses on proper ergonomic procedures to prevent worker injuries
- Provide assistive technology for increased independence at home, work, school
- Help people gain greater self-esteem and confidence through activities

Occupational therapy practitioners work with the entire spectrum of the patient population and are employed in a wide variety of settings including: hospitals and medical centers, rehabilitation centers, pediatric facilities or school systems, hand therapy clinics, home health care agencies, convalescent centers, extended care facilities, and mental health facilities.

Spokane Falls Community College (SFCC) offers a two-year associate in applied science (A.A.S.) degree program to prepare occupational therapy assistants for immediate employment. The program includes study in anatomy and physiology, social science, occupational therapy courses, and clinical education in area healthcare facilities.

Spokane Falls Community College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The OTA program is fully accredited through the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®), through the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). The program has been granted accreditation until review 2020. Questions about accreditation may be addressed nationally through the accreditation department at AOTA: 301-652-6611, ext. 2912.

The next occupational therapy assistant program (OTA) courses begin Fall Quarter, 2014. Admission into the program is limited and requires a specific application process. Please be aware that the admission process is competitive. The completion of all requirements does not ensure admission into the program. The program is designed to be completed in six full-time academic quarters. OTA courses must be taken in sequence and are only offered to students accepted into the OTA program. Students are encouraged to complete general education requirements and related coursework prior to entering the OTA program or during the summer quarter between the first and second year of the program.

OTA Program Application Booklets are available from Loren Pemberton, OTA counselor, 509.533.3503, or at the program location: SFCC Campus, Magnuson Building 27, Room 356, or the Dean’s Office, Building 19, Room 103 or online at: www.spokanefalls.edu/OTA.

Questions concerning the application process or the OTA program may be addressed to the OTA Program Director, Tamara Burt, OTR/L, MED at 509.279.6083 or e-mail: tamarab@spokanefalls.edu

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS FOR FALL 2014, IS:

NOON, FRIDAY, March 21, 2014 (or postmarked March 21, 2014).
ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

The OTA faculty organizes the materials for admission and in conjunction with the admissions committee of the OTA Advisory Board, determines eligibility for the program. Qualified applicants will be rated for grades earned in prior coursework, writing competence, demonstration of previous experience in occupational therapy or related medical fields, their letter of recommendation and their ability to work within a group and communicate verbally.

The top students who are qualified for acceptance into the OTA program will be required to attend a group interview/activity process on the SFCC campus. The date is yet to be scheduled, but will occur in Spring.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT FEES/SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the usual tuition and fees charged at SFCC, OTA students will be responsible for some additional costs.

Required OTA Textbooks

Based on approximate costs of textbooks for OTA technical courses $2,000+ for two (2) years

Name Badge

Included in lab fee

Watch with Second Hand
or Digital Watch

$30 (approximately, to be purchased by student)

Liability Insurance

$6.50 per clinical course available through college beginning Fall 2014.

Injury Insurance

$39 per quarter through college or student may have private insurance beginning Fall 2013.

AOTA Student Membership

$75 a year, included in lab fees.

CPR Certification for Health Professionals

$50 + $15 textbook — Available through college or student may take privately. Due October 1, 2014. Online not accepted.

Immunizations

Current 2-step TB test and proof of immunity (via blood titer) or immunization for measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, tetanus/diphtheria and Hepatitis B (3 part series), flu shot.

Lab Fees

Approximately $120 per course

Drug Testing/Background Check

Approximately $69 paid directly to Verified Credentials, Summer 2014.

Information on financial aid is available in the Financial Aid Office.

(Be aware that Financial Aid has been decreased at the state level. Please make sure you have met with the Financial Aid Office to determine if you will qualify prior to applying for the program.)
ADMISSION PREREQUISITES/REQUIREMENTS

A.A.S. Degree: SFCC

Admission Prerequisites/Requirements:

• Volunteer or paid experience in at least two (2) Occupational Therapy facilities. Minimum 40 hours (see application), max 100 hours. Documentation/verification required.
• Apply for admission to SFCC.
• Completion of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Application Booklet (locations listed page 1.)
• Biology 160 or permission of instructor to enter Biology 241.
• Biology 241.
• Completion of or eligibility for Math 92, 94 96, or Math 107, or Business 103.
• Completion of English 101 (the COMPASS Test must be taken to determine) or English 105.
• PSYCH 100 General Psychology. Completed prior to acceptance or summer 2014 or 2015.
• Minimum GPA of 2.0 in all prerequisites.
• Preference given to students who have completed the prerequisites prior to application.

• If student is accepted, they will be informed of documentation needed for current immunizations, completion of physical examination, drug screening, and Washington State Patrol criminal background check.
• Applications are accepted during the spring quarter for entry into the program the following fall.

1. The OTA program incorporates a selective process for admission. This admission process uses a grading system based on relevant coursework completed at the time of application and verification of paid or volunteer experience in occupational therapy settings, a letter of recommendation, essay question scoring and group and individual verbal communication skills. Please be aware that the completion of all prerequisites does not ensure admission to the program.

2. It is strongly recommended that students take the general education requirements prior to entering the program. These include Psych 100, Math 92, 94, 96, or equivalent Elementary Algebra II, Math 107 or Business 103, and English 101 or English 105 or equivalent English composition. If not taken prior to admission, they will need to be taken summer 2015. Admission preference given to students with completed general education requirements.

3. The OTA courses are primarily offered during the day Monday-Friday, but occasionally include Saturday and evening experiences. The courses are typically scheduled 8:00am-6:00pm, Monday-Friday with limited breaks. Participation in this program is a full time commitment and ability to work at an outside job will be very limited.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Because the OTA program requires each student to complete approximately 1,000 hours of clinical education in health care facilities, there are several special requirements:

1. Students are required to have access to reliable transportation. Clinic sites will be located throughout the greater Spokane area and beyond. Students may also be required to be on campus the same day. Bus service will not accommodate transportation needs, and car pools are rarely feasible, as it is unusual for more than one student to be assigned to a site.

2. Students are required to have health insurance during the quarters that they are in clinics (beginning fall quarter of the first year). Medical insurance is available through the college although any private health insurance is acceptable.

3. Students are also required to have malpractice/liability insurance. This is billed at time of registration.
4. Student must pass mandatory drug testing at student’s own expense prior to entering the program and at any other time as faculty judge there to be “due cause”.

5. Healthcare workers are required to have current TB tests, medical physicals, immunizations and CPR training. These are to be obtained the Summer prior to entering the program and will be explained in detail at the student orientation.

6. The OTA program complies with the “Child/Adult Abuse Information Act.” RCW 43.43.830 through 43.43.840. Each OTA student is required to participate in an investigation for criminal history information prior to entry into the program.

7. All tattoos and alternative body piercings are expected to be covered during guest speakers, clinical labs, with guest clients and fieldwork.

8. Winter and spring quarters of the second year involve full-time clinical fieldwork. Students will pay tuition and receive training in clinical sites 40 hours per week. It is nearly impossible to work at a paid job during this time. Please plan ahead for this financial consideration.

**Requirements for Success for the OTA Program**

The following information is provided to assist students in achieving a better understanding of the sensory, physical, communication, cognitive, behavioral, social, and professional skills necessary to successfully work as a OTA. These criteria are identified as being essential job functions for occupational therapy assistants and as such, closely match the abilities needed to successfully complete the clinical and laboratory components of the OTA program at SFCC. Students must be able to meet these minimum standards throughout the program, with or without reasonable accommodation, for successful completion of the program requirements.

It is the policy of Spokane Falls Community College to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified students with a disability so that they can meet these required standards. If you are disabled and need some special accommodation, please contact the program supervisor of disability support services program at 533-4166.

1. **SENSORY/PHYSICAL SKILLS The student must be able to:**
   
a) Provide general and emergency treatment to patients, including CPR.

b) Execute actions which require strength and coordination of both gross and fine motor movements, balance and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

c) Observe and interpret patient movement, non-verbal communication, skin condition including changes in appearance or color, anatomical structure, etc.

d) Read and interpret equipment dials, graphs, patient charts, professional literature, and notes from physicians and other professionals.

Lift, carry, push, and pull patients, equipment and objects equivalent to:

1. Lifting 0-10 lbs constantly, 11-35 lbs frequently, 36-50 lbs occasionally, and greater than 50 lbs seldom.

2. Carry 0-25 lbs constantly, 25-35 lbs frequently, 36-45 lbs occasionally, and greater than 45 lbs seldom.

3. Pushing 5 lbs of force (lbf) constantly, 6-3 lbf frequently, 31-50 lbf occasionally, and greater than 50 lbf seldom.

4. Pulling 20 lbf constantly, 21-35 lbf frequently, 36-55 lbf occasionally, and greater than 55 lbf seldom.

e) Manipulate equipment including bolsters, pillows, plinths, mats, and assistive devices, to aid in positioning, and moving or treating a patient effectively.

f) Respond to a patient calling from behind a curtain, warning calls from anyone (patient, staff, etc.), bells, and alarms/signals.

g) Adapts treatment to perform tasks safely and within safe physical limits to avoid injury to self or patient/classmates.
2. COMMUNICATION  The student must be able to:
   a) Provide patients with clear instructions that are adapted to their cognitive levels and communication needs.
   b) Communicate effectively, compassionately, and respectfully with patients, their families, and co-workers including perception of non-verbal communication.
   c) Document clear and legible progress notes in patient charts, written home programs and instruction to patients and family members.
   d) Interact respectfully and effectively with many professionals including members of a multidisciplinary team and convey essential information for safe and effective care.
   e) Deliver clear oral presentations to classmates and healthcare professionals.

3. COGNITIVE DEMANDS  The student must be able to:
   a) Concentrate and attend to detail amidst a variety of environmental distractions.
   b) Prioritize multiple tasks and carry out complex sequence of instructions.
   c) Read, measure, calculate, reason, and analyze information from a variety of sources accurately, thoroughly, and quickly.
   d) Use problem-solving skill to promote safety and to transfer learning from one situation to another and make appropriate decisions in a timely manner.
   e) Interact effectively and appropriately with patients of various ages, behaviors, cognitive abilities, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds.

4. BEHAVIOR, SOCIAL, AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS  The student must be able to:
   a) Effectively adapt to frequent changes in work environment and patient/client population. Tolerate emotionally stressful workloads effectively.
   b) Comply with legal and ethical standards set forth by the American Occupational Therapy Association and Washington State regarding Occupational Therapy.
   c) Adapt treatment styles to effectively work with a variety of different supervisors.
   d) Possess emotional stability in order to provide safe and effective care.
   e) Acknowledge and respect individual values, beliefs, and opinions to successfully foster harmonious working relationships with fellow students, patients, and other professionals.
   f) Self evaluate capabilities, needs, and performance.
   g) Maintain personal appearance and hygiene appropriate to classroom and clinic settings.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

Regionally and nationally, job placement of graduates of Occupational Therapy Assistant programs is excellent. The OTA profession is rated by the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics as one of the fastest growing professions, and current projections indicate that this trend will continue. Graduates of SFCC’s OTA program can expect to be hired immediately. There are many job opportunities, and career opportunities for pursuit in rehabilitation, including: school districts, acute care hospitals, home healthcare, geriatrics and mental health settings. Starting salaries vary in range depending on demand and usually include benefits.
This program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®), of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Information regarding accreditation can be obtained at:

ACOTE  
4720 Montgomery Lane  
Suite 200  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3449

301-652-6611, ext. 2914  
accred@aota.org

Most states require licensure in order to practice, however state licenses are usually based upon the results of the NBCOT examination. Be advised that a criminal record may render an individual ineligible to take the certification exam and consequently ineligible to practice as an occupational therapy assistant. If you have concerns pertaining to a past criminal record, you should contact NBCOT at (301) 990-7979 to determine your eligibility for the exam.