



**Health**

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# Occupational Therapy Assistant

Department: Health

Degree: Associate of Applied Science

Entry time: Fall

Length: 2 years (5 semesters, including 1 summer)

- The program faculty has vast experience in **inpatient acute hospital, behavioral health, skilled nursing facility, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, and pediatrics.**
- The program features **caring instructors** who have received outstanding leadership and mentorship awards.
- **Small classroom and lab sizes** allow for **personal attention** and facilitate meaningful interactions between faculty and students.
- Graduating highly qualified clinicians, Kirkwood's OTA program is **focused on student success.**
- Students learn to use the **latest equipment and techniques** to promote their success as they move into their careers.
- **Kibbie Grant:** Students in this program may be eligible to have half their tuition paid for by the Kibbie Grant. Go to [www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie](http://www.kirkwood.edu/Kibbie) for more details.

## Program Description

Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs) work with patients of all ages and help them learn skills to lead independent lives. They work under the supervision of an occupational therapist (OT) to provide hands-on services to clients who are learning new ways to succeed in the occupation of life.

The primary location for Occupational Therapy Assistant students is the Kirkwood Linn County Regional Center in Hiawatha.

This program has a mandatory background check for clinical purposes.

## Career Opportunities

School systems  
Assisted living facilities  
Hospitals  
Outpatient clinics  
Long-term care facilities  
Private practice

## Sample Classes

Human Anatomy and Physiology  
Professionals in Health  
Foundations of OT  
Basic Medical Terminology  
Introduction to Psychology  
Pathophysiology for the OTA  
Functional Kinesiology  
Psychosocial Dysfunction  
Physical Dysfunction

Community Health and Special Populations  
Pediatric Interventions for the OTA  
Geriatric Interventions for the OTA

## Accreditation

Kirkwood's Occupational Therapy Assistant program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the national certification exam administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Successful completion of the exam leads to the Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) designation. Most states, including Iowa, require a license to practice. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification exam or obtain state licensure.

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)  
7501 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 510E  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
301-652-AOTA  
[www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org)

## Scholarships

Kirkwood will help you pay for college! Kirkwood awards more scholarships than any other community college in Iowa. For more information and to apply, visit [www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships](http://www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships).

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