

San Jacinto College
South Campus
Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is the OTA program very difficult to get into?

Yes, it is a competitive program. There are only 12-14 positions in the program and the applicant pool exceeds the available positions. There is a possibility in the future that the program will admit more students.

2. Is the job market good?

Yes! The job market is excellent at this time as there is a push to hire more occupational therapy assistants. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, there is a projection of 43% job growth by 2024, adding 14,100 OTA professionals to the existing amount of jobs. OTAs work collaboratively with an OT for patient intervention. The median salary is \$57,870. According to the 2017 U.S. News Rankings, Occupational Therapy Assistants are ranked #1 in Best Health Care Support Jobs and #12 in the 100 Best Jobs!

3. What is the starting salary?

Starting salary as an occupational therapy assistant will vary dependent on setting. The median pay is \$68,134 per Texaswages.com.

4. What are the program's graduation rates?

Graduation Year	Students Entering/Graduating	Graduation Rate
2020*	12/8	67%
2021*	14/12	TBD
2022	12/12	TBD

*Students withdrew from program due to personal reasons.

TBD – after first three years as this is a developing program

5. I heard there is a national licensing exam that I must pass in order to practice as and OTA in Texas?

Yes, there is a national licensing exam through the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). You will be eligible for the certification exam once you complete the program and graduate. As of March 2020, the occupational therapy assistant program at San Jacinto College is accredited for seven years by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Graduates of this program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

Once this exam is complete, you will then be able to apply for your licensure to practice through the appropriate state agency. In Texas, the agency is the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE). However, please note that any felony

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conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT examination or attain state licensure. Applicants have the right to request a criminal history evaluation from the applicable licensing agency.

6. Do you offer this program at North or Central Campus?

No, the OTA program is only located at South Campus. You may take non-occupational therapy assistant courses (prerequisites) on other campuses, at night, weekends, etc.

7. Do you offer this program at night?

No, the OTA program does not offer night classes. However, there are two courses in the OTA curriculum that may be offered at night or online that are non-OTA courses but required for completion of the program and graduation.

8. When is the application deadline?

The application deadline for the occupational therapy assistant program is the first Friday in April of every year. Applications will not be considered after this date.

9. When does the OTA program start?

The program will accept students on an annual basis to start every fall semester.

10. Do I have to take the SAT or ACT or HESI?

No.

11. Are observation hours mandatory?

As of September 2020, observation hours are not mandatory for the admission process. Applicants can choose to seek out opportunities for their own understanding of the profession.

12. If I chose to seek out observation opportunities, where do I go for observation hours?

Any facility is appropriate as long as you observe a licensed OT or OTA. Example settings are inpatient, outpatient, rehabilitation, acute care, pediatrics, mental health, skilled nursing facility, or home health.

13. Is there an observation form?

Yes. If you chose to complete observation hours, please refer to the website to download the form. Make sure that the OT or OTA signs the paper and verifying information is correct. Directions for completion are included in the Application packet.

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14. Is there a form for references to complete?

Yes. Refer to the website to download the form. Three of these must be completed (numbers must be circled). If you completed observations, an OT or OTA can complete a reference form. Reference forms cannot be completed by family or friends. Directions for completion are included in the Application packet.

15. Do you have any non-traditional students in the program?

Yes, the OTA program admits students from various backgrounds including those who may have had a previous career.

16. Do any of the required prerequisites have to be taken within a certain time period?

Prerequisites must be completed before the start of the program. Preferably prerequisite courses would have been completed at time of admission. However if 1-2 courses are in progress, your application will still be processed. Prerequisites (A&P I and II) should not have been taken more than 5 years ago. However, there are certain circumstances such as second career that will be considered. A&P I and II would not be recommended courses that are pending upon submitting application.

17. I have to work throughout the program. Can I take the program part-time?

No. Due to the progression and sequence of the program, it is not offered at part-time status. There are clinical experiences embedded in the curriculum as well as 16 weeks of full time clinical experience required at the end of the didactic portion of the program.

18. What if I want to re-apply for the program?

Many students reapply and are encouraged to do so. You will need to complete a new application with all new documents and note on your application that you are reapplying. If observation hours were completed within 2 years of re-applying, you may resubmit those forms. Applicants should have copies of all materials initially submitted to resubmit certain documents of application.

19. Is the OTA program an online program?

The San Jacinto College OTA program is a face to face program. The program will only implement hybrid (online and on campus lab) or full online on a schedule if community and government officials place a state of emergency due to local, state, or national emergencies. Students are notified ahead of time if changes to instruction is required.

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