

## 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 US 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	57.7%
2022	12/12	100%
2023	12/TBD	TBD

\*Students withdrew from program due to personal reasons.

TBD – Students currently enrolled in 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 has been accredited for seven years by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Graduates of this program will be eligible to take 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 can 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 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. However, you may take non-occupational therapy assistant courses (prerequisites) on other campuses, at night, on weekends, etc.

7. Do you offer this program at night?

No, the OTA program does not offer night classes.

8. When is the application deadline?

The application deadline for the occupational therapy assistant program is the beginning of April. See OTA website for application deadlines ([www.sanjac.edu/ota](http://www.sanjac.edu/ota)). Applications will not be considered after this date.

9. When does the OTA program start?

The program will accept students annually to start every Fall semester. There is only one cohort admitted every Fall.

10. Do I have to take the SAT, ACT, or HESI for admission consideration?

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 understanding of the profession.

12. Where do I go for observation hours if I seek observation opportunities?

Any facility is appropriate if 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 a form for references to complete?

Yes. Refer to the website to download the form. Three of these must be completed (one number in each category must be indicated). 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.

14. 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.

15. 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 the time of submitting your application. 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 five years ago. However, certain circumstances such as a second career will be considered. It is highly recommended to complete all A&P courses upon submitting your application.

16. 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.

17. 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 two years of re-applying, you may resubmit those forms. Applicants should have copies of all materials initially submitted to resubmit certain documents of application.

18. 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.

19. Do all my vaccinations need to be complete before applying?

No. Please see the application packet's Immunization and Health Screen/Drug Screen section.

20. Do I have to take the COVID-19 vaccine to be a part of the OTA program?

Please see Addendum 1 for more information.