

**LaGuardia Community College
Occupational Therapy Assistant Program**



**Admission Guide
2025-2026**

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM - FACT SHEET

- An **Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)** works under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist (OT) to help individuals and groups across the lifespan with physical, psychiatric, and developmental conditions to participate in daily life to the greatest extent possible. Occupational Therapy Assistants contribute to assessment; choose and adapt tasks, activities, and therapeutic media to improve the functioning of their clients; instruct individuals and groups; and are an integral part of the health care team.
- The LaGuardia Community College (LAGCC) OTA Program is fully accredited by the **Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)** of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). ACOTE is located at 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E Bethesda, MD 20814. ACOTE may be reached by phone ([\(301\) 652-6611](tel:3016526611)) or email at accred@aota.org. Website: <https://acoteonline.org> *The program was re-accredited in May 2023, earning Status of Accreditation for a period of 10 years; the highest award possible for an occupational therapy education program.*
- The LAGCC OTA Program is **63 credits** and consists of a pre-clinical phase (28 credits including all required general education and elective courses, including Key Courses) and a clinical phase (35 credits of occupational therapy assistant courses).
- Consideration for admission to the clinical phase of the OTA Program is completed by application through the **Candidacy process**. Application to candidacy takes place in the Spring I and Fall I semesters. Candidacy application deadlines are clearly posted on the LAGCC Academic Calendar.
- Students must be an **Undeclared Health Science/OTA major** to apply for candidacy.
- Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 to apply for candidacy.
- Students must be taking 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) at the time of Candidacy application. A GPA of 2.5 in all Key Courses is required for Candidacy application.
- **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.
- Candidacy options include **Day Session (Spring entry)** and **Evening Session (Fall entry)** clinical phase programs. Students intending to pursue clinical courses in the **Day Session** must apply for candidacy in the Fall I session preceding the Spring entry to the OTA clinical phase. Students intending to pursue clinical courses in the **Evening Session** must apply for candidacy in the Spring I session preceding the Fall entry to the OTA clinical phase
- **Full-time and Part-time options** are available for completion of the Clinical phase.
- Acceptance to the OTA Program clinical phase is limited to **22 students twice per year** and is competitive. Students are **ranked according to GPA** and the top 22 students are admitted.
- Graduates of the program earn an Associates in Applied Science degree and are eligible to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) Examination. Candidates that successfully complete the NBCOT Examination are eligible for licensure in all 50 US states and US territories.
- Information on the OTA program can be found at <https://www.laguardia.edu/majors/occupational-therapy-assistant/>
- Information on the field of Occupational Therapy can be found at 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 occupational therapy assistants 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 offered in both the Day and Evening sessions. A full-time and a part-time option are available for completion of the Clinical phase.
MINIMUM GPA REQUIREMENT	Minimum GPA requirement to apply for candidacy is 2.50 . This includes the overall GPA as well as the GPA in all Key Courses. Students are ranked according to their GPA and the top 22 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 in the full-time option .
CANDIDACY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidacy occurs twice a year, once in the Fall I semester and once in the Spring I semester. The candidacy deadlines are clearly listed on the LAGCC Academic Calendar. • The candidacy code for OTA is OTA000.4299. • Students must be taking or have completed all four Key Courses (ENG101, SSY101, SCB203, and one of the following: MAT115, MAT117, MAT119, or MAT120) at the time of Candidacy application. A GPA of 2.5 in all Key Courses is required for Candidacy application. If a Key Course is repeated, both grades will be included in the Candidacy process for GPA ranking. • A student has two attempts for OTA Candidacy. • Students can only register for OTA Candidacy (OTA000) by emailing the Health Sciences Department at HealthSci@lagcc.cuny.edu. • Students will be notified of the result in session II of the same semester. • Successful candidates will begin the Clinical Phase in session I of the following semester. • Candidacy application made in the Fall I semester will be considered for entrance in the following Spring I semester: <u>Day Program</u> • Candidacy application made in the Spring I semester will be considered for entrance in the following Fall I semester: <u>Evening Program</u> • Full-time and Part-time options are available for completion of the Clinical phase.
STUDENTS ADMITTED	20 - 22
PROGRESSION IN THE PROGRAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must maintain a minimum of GPA of 2.0 in all OTA Program Clinical Phase courses. A grade of C or above must be earned in all Clinical Phase courses in order to progress in the OTA Program • Students who do not successfully complete an OTA course for any reason must achieve a passing grade on the second attempt of that course. • Students who fail two occupational therapy courses may no longer continue in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program.
CLINICAL/FIELD WORK REQUIREMENTS	Students must complete 2 Level I (part-time) and 2 Level II (full-time, minimum of a total of 16 weeks) clinical placements during the clinical phase. Although CUNY does not perform a criminal background check, a felony conviction might impact eligibility for the NBCOT/state licensure. Fieldwork sites may also require clearance from the NYS Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR), fingerprinting, fit testing, and/or CPR. 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 LAGCC catalog.
LICENSING EXAM REQUIREMENTS	Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) Examination. Candidates that successfully complete the NBCOT Examination are eligible for licensure in all 50 US states and US territories. 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	Clinical phase program options include Day Session (Spring entry) and Evening Session (Fall entry) . Full-time and Part-time options are available for completion of the Clinical phase.

**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 or MAT117 Algebra and Trigonometry	3
MAT120 Elementary Statistics or MAT119 Statistics with Elementary Algebra	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 Evening Session or Spring I Day Session:

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

Fall II Evening Session or Spring II Day Session:

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

Spring I Evening Session or Fall I Day Session:

SCO114 Documentation in Occupational Therapy	2
SCO204 Occupational Therapy Process: Psychosocial Dysfunction & Geriatric Conditions	4
SCO214 Occupational Therapy Functional Skills and Occupations I	3
SCO284 OTA Level I Fieldwork A	1.5

Spring II or Fall II: Full-time, 8-week clinical placement during site-specific business hours & evening seminar

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

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 OTA Level I Fieldwork B	1.5

Fall II or Spring II: Full-time, 8-week clinical placement during site-specific business hours & evening seminar

SCO295 Occupational Therapy Fieldwork in Physical & Developmental Disabilities	2
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Please contact HealthSci@lagcc.cuny.edu for an Advisement Appointment with an OTA Program faculty advisor.