

Additional Admissions Information

Occupational Therapy Assistant (A.S.)

1. For new students, complete an online application to the College by the review deadline. For existing students, complete a Program Plan Change **if** Occupational Therapy Assistant is **not** your Active Program of study.
2. Submit all official non-FSCJ [transcripts](#) to the College when applying and prior to the review deadline date.
3. Complete the Prerequisite Courses.
4. If the HESI A2 test was taken at FSCJ, no action is required. Your scores will be automatically submitted. Otherwise, ensure official scores are on file with the [FSCJ Assessment Center](#) before the review deadline.
5. Submit the signed **Core Performance Standards** form, located at the end of this document.
6. Complete the following **after** acceptance into the professional phase of the program:
 - Ten-panel drug screening
 - Level two background screening with fingerprints
7. The following must be completed **after** the program orientation:
 - Medical physical
 - Immunization records and communicable disease screening
 - CPR/BLS provider card from the American Heart Association, if not already completed. The CPR certification must remain active throughout the program and fieldwork experiences.

Health Education Systems Admission Test (HESI A2)

A completed HESI A2 admission test is required, consisting of nine sub-tests that must be completed in one sitting. A minimum score of 75% in Anatomy & Physiology, Math, Vocabulary, and Reading Comprehension is required for admission. Scores will be considered official if they meet the following:

- Applicant has taken all 9 categories in one sitting.
- The test was taken within the last 2 years.
- Submitted to the FSCJ Assessment Center before the application deadline.

The HESI assessment can only be taken after every 91 days up to three times a year.

If you have Questions about the HESI and submitting your official scores, please email north_testing@fscj.edu or call 904-713-6014.

Application Addendums

Submit all supporting documents to the Health Sciences department at HCIC@fscj.edu by

the review deadline, with the following information included in the email:

- Student’s **program of study, term,** and **“Attachment”** in the subject line.
 - Include the student’s **name** and student **ID** in the body of the message.
 - Documents must be emailed as attachments.
1. Submit a CPR/BLS provider card from the **American Heart Association.**
 2. If you have at least one month of direct patient healthcare-related work experience, submit proof of employment as follows:
 - Completed by a company representative
 - Printed on company letterhead
 - Begin and end dates of employment
 - Detailed healthcare-related duties performed
 - Number of hours worked per week
 3. If you served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces, submit a copy of your DD214.

Competitive Review Process

Applicants must earn a grade of C or better in each prerequisite course and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5. Completion of General Education coursework will allow applicants to achieve additional points.

Students are ready for review upon completion of all admission criteria. The ranking rubric is included below. Please note that the admission process is highly competitive.

Students will be notified through their FSCJ Student email of their admissions status 4-6 weeks following the review deadline. Information regarding a student's admissions status will not be provided over the telephone.

Occupational Therapy Assistant Ranking Rubric		Max Points
Minimum Cumulative GPA 2.5		30
Overall GPA	Points	
2.5 - 2.99	10	
3.0 - 3.49	20	
3.5 - 4.0	30	
A grade of C or better in all required OTA prerequisite courses		50
Course Grade	Points	
A	10	
B	8	
C	6	

Prerequisite Courses:			
Course Title	Course Code	Credit Hours	
Communications	ENC 1101, ENC 1101C, or ENC 1102	3	
Mathematics	MAC 1105 or higher, MAP 2302, MGF 1130, or STA 2023	3	
Anatomy & Physiology I	BSC 2085C	4	
Humanities	ARH 2000, PHI 2010, MUL 2010, LIT 2000, HUM 2020, or THE 2000	3	
Human Growth and Development	DEP 2004	3	
HESI A2			
<p>A complete HESI/A2 administration is required and consists of nine (9) sub-tests that must be completed in one sitting. Must take all 9 categories in one sitting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum score of 75% in Anatomy & Physiology, Math, Vocabulary, and Reading Comprehension is required for admission. <p><i>Add all the points achieved in each of the four categories, including A&P, Math, Vocabulary, and Reading Comprehension, and then divide by 10 to calculate the points for this category. For example, A score of 100% for all four (4) categories equals 400/10=40.</i></p>			40
Bonus Points			
Healthcare-Related Experience (Direct Patient Care) or Military Experience			
Duration	Points		
1 month	.25		5
2 months	.50		
3 months	.75		
4 months	1.0		
5 months	1.25		
6 months	1.5		
7 months	2.0		
8 months	2.25		
9 months	2.5		

10 months	3	
11 months	4	
12 months or >	5	
CPR Certification for Health Care Providers		
American Heart Association Only	Points	2
CPR/BLS Provider Card	2	
Total Possible Points		127

Accreditation

“The occupational therapy/occupational therapy assistant program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510e, Bethesda, MD 20814. ACOTE’s telephone number, c/o AOTA, is (301) 652-AOTA, and its web address is WWW.ACOTEONLINE.ORG.”

For official program pass rates on the certification exam, please visit NBCOT. Upon successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). In addition, most states require licensure to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT Certification Examination or attain state licensure.

At its April 2018 meeting, the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) granted the FSCJ Occupational Therapy Assistant Program a Status of Accreditation for ten years. ACOTE is recognized as the accrediting agency for occupational therapy education by both the United States Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). ACOTE is also an active member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA). ACOTE currently accredits over 407 occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant educational programs in the United States and its territories.

The program completed the Interim Report in 2022, and the next on-site evaluation will take place by 2027/28.

Record of Conviction of a Crime

Effective July 1, 2009, pursuant to Section 456.0635, Florida Statutes, health care review boards shall refuse to renew a license, certificate or registration, issue a license, certificate or registration and shall refuse to admit a candidate for examination if the applicant has

been convicted or plead guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of adjudication, to a felony violation of: chapters 409, 817, or 893, Florida Statutes; or 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970 or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any probation or pleas ended more than 15 years before the application, terminated for cause from Florida Medicaid Program (unless the applicant has been in good standing for the most recent five years) or terminated for cause by any other State Medicaid Program or the Medicare Program (unless the termination was at least 20 years before the date of the application and the applicant has been in good standing with the program for the most recent five years). The Florida nursing or allied health licensure or certification application requires disclosure of any criminal history and the disposition of all cases before board review. Being convicted of or having entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any of the listed felonies in Florida Statute 456.0635 or termination for cause from the statutorily described Medicaid programs will preclude an applicant from obtaining a nursing or allied health license or certification in the state of Florida. Entry and acceptance into the nursing or allied health program do not guarantee licensure or certification in the state of Florida.

CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Individuals who choose the Occupational Therapy Assistant profession require the capabilities outlined below regarding core performance standards. This list is not intended as a comprehensive list; it is intended to provide a representative summary of the major duties and responsibilities. The overall physical demand rating for a job of OTA falls within the medium classification, according to the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.

Specialized Motor Skills and Mobility: Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and adequate performance of clinical procedures.

- Demonstrate physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room.
- Manipulates equipment by pushing/pulling weight up to 300 lbs. and lifting a minimum of 50 lbs.
- Walk long distances (up to approximately 3 miles per day).
- Occasionally required to perform stooping, kneeling, and crouching.
- Assist with patient transfers and lifts or help them turn, stand, or walk.
- Regularly required to stand, talk and/or hear.

Sensory: Sufficient use of the senses of vision, hearing, touch, and smell to observe, assess, and evaluate close to and at a distance in the classroom and clinical setting

- Hear auditory signals from monitors, cameras, and beepers.
- Hear emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, and patient verbalizing needs.
- Perform visual assessments and observe patients' responses.
- Perceive, interpret, and use information via observation, listening, touching, and smelling.

Critical Thinking: Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment, ability to acquire, assimilate, integrate, apply and evaluate information and problem solve.

- Understand and interpret written and verbal orders.
- Respond promptly to emergencies.
- Concentrate and focus attention for long periods.
- Identify cause and effect relationships in clinical situations.
- Skills in analyzing problems, identifying solutions, and recommending and implementing methods, procedures, and techniques for the resolution of issues.
- Make accurate decisions independently.

Interpersonal/Behavioral: Interpersonal ability sufficient to communicate and interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of backgrounds, including social, emotional, cultural, economic, and intellectual.

- Establish rapport with patients, clients, colleagues, and other health care personnel.
- Demonstrate patience, empathy, and concern for others.
- Display a calm manner in fearful or hostile situations.
- Exhibit emotional stability and composure to function safely under stress and adapt to changing environments.
- Exhibit social skills necessary to interact effectively with clients, families, supervisors, co-workers, and community members of the same or different cultures with respect, compassion, tact, collaboration, teamwork, responsibility, and discretion.
- Display attitudes and actions consistent with the core values and ethical standards of the occupational therapy profession.
- Maintain personal hygiene and appearance (including skin and piercing practices) consistent with close personal contact in client care.
- Establish therapeutic relationships and communicate in a supportive manner.

Communication: Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.

- Communicate needs in a prompt, clear, and concise manner. Accurately document findings, both written and oral. Communicate information accurately and effectively.
- Read and evaluate written information such as admissions reports, diagnosis, Occupational Therapy evaluations, treatment plans, and written and verbal orders.
- Observe and record patients' progress, attitudes, and behavior and maintain this information in client records.
- Participate in multi-disciplinary team meetings to review client's functional status, treatment, concerns, and recommendations.
- Communicate effectively with providers, families, and other agencies.

Behavior: Sufficiency of motivation, responsibility, and flexibility to function in new, ever-changing, and stressful environments and adapt appropriately to diverse client needs.

- Maintain patient confidentiality.
- Show accountability for actions.
- Adapt to the assignment of patients and clinical sites such that the student meets objectives while providing safe, adequate patient care.
- Knowledge of the principles and practices of legal, ethical, and professional rules of conduct.
- Maintain and promote a positive attitude toward clients and their treatment program.
- Monitor patients and activities in home, school, or clinic environment; help to create a safe and therapeutic environment for patients; follow established safe practices; follow safety protocols and calls for assistance as required.

Knowledge:

- Knowledge of records management and documentation requirements.
- Knowledge of construction, use, and care of orthopedic appliances, splinting, and Durable Medical Equipment.
- Conduct direct therapy to include therapeutic exercise, transfer training, facilitating normal postural responses and developmental sequence, teach wheelchair mobility, providing training in activities of daily living, provide training in oral motor and feeding skills, and instructing clients in proper body mechanics in developmental sequence, transfers, balance activities, and wheelchair use.

Core Performance Standards for Admission into the Occupational Therapy Program

I, _____, have read the “Core Performance Standards” for Admission into the Occupational Therapist Program and attest that I am physically and mentally capable of performing the required duties of an Occupational Therapy Assistant.

Student's Signature