

# Informed Consent

## Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Informed Consent Packet

Please read the following information and sign the on-line application acknowledging your consent.

### I. Program Duration

The OTA Program begins in the Fall Semester and is designed to be completed in 5 semesters after a pre-requisite semester. However, students may take general education courses required for the degree prior to admission. Secondary to the sequencing of the OTA classes, it will take 5 consecutive semesters to complete the program regardless of the amount of course work that has been completed prior to admission.

### II. Travel to Clinical Sites

Students enrolled in the OTA program at Rhodes State College must complete fieldwork (clinical) assignments in conjunction with on-campus classroom and laboratory instruction prior to completion of the program. Fieldwork assignments for students are arranged so that all students can benefit by learning through a variety of clinical experiences. *Students must be prepared to meet the financial obligations associated with the clinical assignment (i.e. – transportation to the facility which can be up to an hour from their home).*

### III. State of Ohio Licensing Procedure for Occupational Therapy Assistants

Taken from the State of Ohio Licensing Procedure for Occupational Therapy Assistants, section **4755.11**: In accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the occupational therapy section of the Ohio occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic trainers board may suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew an occupational therapist license, occupational therapy assistant license, occupational therapist limited permit, occupational therapy assistant limited permit, or reprimand, fine, or place a license or limited permit holder on probation, for any of the following:

1. Conviction of an offense involving moral turpitude or a felony, regardless of the state or country in which the conviction occurred;
2. Violation of any provision of sections 4755.04 to 4755.13 of the Revised Code;
3. Violation of any lawful order or rule of the occupational therapy section;
4. Obtaining or attempting to obtain a license or limited permit issued by the occupational therapy section by fraud or deception, including the making of a false, fraudulent, deceptive, or misleading statements in relation to these activities;
5. Negligence, unprofessional conduct, or gross misconduct in the practice of the profession of occupational therapy;

6. Accepting commissions or rebates or other forms of remuneration for referring persons to other professionals;
7. Communicating, without authorization, information received in professional confidence;
8. Using controlled substances, habit forming drugs, or alcohol to an extent that it impairs the ability to perform the work of an occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, occupational therapist limited permit holder, or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder;
9. Practicing in an area of occupational therapy for which the individual is untrained or incompetent.
10. Failing the licensing or Ohio jurisprudence examination.
11. Aiding, abetting, directing, or supervising the unlicensed practice of occupational therapy;
12. Denial, revocation, suspension, or restriction of authority to practice a health care occupation, including occupational therapy, for any reason other than a failure to renew, in Ohio or another state of jurisdiction.
13. Except as provided in division (B) of this section:
  - a. Waiving the payment of all or any part of a deductible or co-payment that a patient, pursuant to a health insurance or health care policy, contract, or plan that covers occupational therapy, would otherwise be required to pay if the waiver is used as an enticement to a patient or group of patients to receive health care services from that provider;
  - b. Advertising that the individual will waive the payment of all or any part of a deductible or co-payment that a patient, pursuant to a health insurance or health care policy, contract, or plan that covers occupational therapy, would otherwise be required to pay.
14. Working or representing oneself as an occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, occupational therapist limited permit holder, or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder without a current and valid license or limited permit issued by the occupational therapy section;
15. Engaging in a deceptive trade practice as defined in section 4165.02 of the Revised Code;
16. Violation of the standards of ethical conduct in the practice of occupational therapy as identified by the occupational therapy section.

The complete Revised Code (in regards to occupational therapy practice and licensure) may be accessed at: <https://otptat.ohio.gov/occupational-therapy/ot-laws-and-rules>

Therefore, any person to whom any of the above conditions applies may be denied licensure to practice as an occupational therapy assistant (OTA) in the State of Ohio.

#### IV. Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screens

To meet the expanding requirements of our clinical affiliates, both a criminal background check and a drug screen will be mandatory prior to clinical experiences for all students with the division of Health Sciences. You are at risk if you have been convicted of a prior felony and/or some misdemeanors. Students with certain felony, misdemeanor, or drug-related convictions will be ineligible for admission into clinical experiences. A criminal record may also prevent you from obtaining a license or certificate in your chosen healthcare profession or to obtain employment post graduation. Students admitted to a program containing off campus clinical/practicum experiences will be required to submit to drug screening. Positive drug screenings will result in dismissal from all clinical courses. Any student who refuses/fails to cooperate, or complete any required drug screening will be considered “positive” and dismissed from the clinical component of their program. All students requiring drug screening may be subject to random drug screens and for cause during the program.

Upon completion of the OTA Program graduates will be eligible to apply for licensure by examination. Section 4755.70 of the Ohio Revised Code requires all individuals applying for a license issued by the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board to submit fingerprints for a criminal records check completed by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The BCI and FBI records checks are both required for initial licensure. By law, the Board cannot complete the processing of any application until it receives the background check reports from BCI and FBI. The graduate is responsible for the cost of the BCI and FBI records checks.

#### V. Physical Examination

Prior to the first fieldwork experience, the student will be required to have a physical examination completed by a physician (or other acceptable healthcare provider), completion of required immunizations, and a two-step TB (Mantoux) skin test. **The student is responsible for these costs.**

#### VI. Technical Standards

All applicants for the Health Science Programs must possess the essential skills and abilities necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the curriculum either with or without reasonable accommodations for any disabilities the individual may have.

**Note:** The use of an intermediary that, in effect, requires a student to rely on someone else’s power of selection and observation will not be permitted. The essential skills and abilities for the Health Science Programs are categorized in the following TECHNICAL STANDARDS:

1. **Sensory/Observational Skills:** The applicant must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of all the senses.

2. **Communication:** The applicant must be able to speak, hear, and observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. An applicant must be able to communicate effectively with patients and all members of the health care team. Communication includes listening, speaking, reading, as well as writing.
3. **Motor Skills:** Applicants must have sufficient motor skills to gain access to clients in a variety of care settings and to manipulate and utilize the equipment central to the assessment, as well as general and emergency treatment of patients receiving allied health practitioners' care. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
4. **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and evaluation. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of health practitioners, requires all of these abilities. In addition, the applicant should be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relations of structures.
5. **Behavioral/Social Skills and Professionalism:** An applicant must possess the emotional health required for utilization of his/her intellectual abilities. The exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients, and the development of effective relationships with the patients, are essential skills for allied health practitioners. Applicants must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads, and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of the uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Concern for others, integrity, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation, are all personal qualities necessary for the practice of allied health.
6. **Environmental:** All applicants must interact with diverse patient populations, of all ages, with a range of acute and chronic medical conditions. Applicants must be able to tolerate frequent exposure to communicable diseases, toxic substances, ionizing radiation, medicinal preparations, hostile individuals, and other conditions common to the health care environment.

## VII. Health Insurance

*Due to potential risks, all OTA students are expected to purchase personal health insurance if they are not covered on a family policy. Rhodes State College is not responsible for any accidents or illnesses that result from student negligence during experiences in the campus or clinical laboratories.*

### **VIII. Working While in the OTA Program**

Some students continue to work while enrolled in the OTA Program, but this is dependent upon work schedule, flexibility, semester schedule, and credit hour load, as well as the student's learning style and other responsibilities. Students are required to attend all scheduled classes, and must be available for the required full-time clinical education experiences. The OTA faculty strongly recommend that a student does not work more than 10 hours per week while in the program. It is an expectation that a student will spend at least two hours of outside preparation and studying for every one credit hour.

### **IX. Academic Standards of the OTA Program**

The grading policies of the OTA Program are more rigorous than those of Rhodes State College to ensure student competence for fieldwork (clinical) assignment. The student must earn a 75% (C) or better in every OTA course, as well as, Anatomy and Physiology I and II, Introduction to Patient Care, Medical Terminology, Abnormal Psychology, and Statistics or Quantitative Reasoning to demonstrate achievement of prerequisite and graduation requirements. In addition the student must achieve a 75% or better on all final exams and lab practical competencies within 2 trials to achieve a final score of C or better in every OTA course.

### **X. Licensure and Certification Required Upon Completion of Program**

After successfully completing an accredited Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, the graduate is eligible to take the National Certification Examination for the Occupational Therapy Assistant administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a COTA. In addition, most states including Ohio require licensure to practice; however, Ohio and most other state licenses are based on passing of the NBCOT exam. After achieving licensure, the individual will be a COTA/L.

### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

Pursuant to federal regulations and state law, it is a policy of Rhodes State College that discrimination against any individual for any reasons of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, qualified disability, age (40 or older), or because he/she is a Vietnam-era veteran or a disabled veteran is specifically prohibited. Accordingly, equal opportunity will be extended to all persons. The College's admissions policies, instructional programs, extracurricular activities and employment practices will reflect this Nondiscrimination Policy. The College has appointed the individual listed below as Title IX and Section 504 compliance officers. Students who believe that they have experienced any form of discrimination, including sexual harassment, should contact: Andrea Goings, Executive Director, Human Resources, Title IX Coordinator Public Service Building, 419-995-8302, [goings.a@Rhodes.State.edu](mailto:goings.a@Rhodes.State.edu).