BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE
EST. 1940

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The next entry for the OTA program is Fall Quarter 2026

*Attend an OTA Program Overview Session with OTA Faculty

Virtual Information Sessions Available

Contact: https://www.batestech.edu/information-sessions/

Email address and phone number for further information
specific to this OTA program are provided at: amin@batestech.edu, 253-680-7287

About the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Bates

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program started spring 2011. This nationally-accredited program takes **six quarters to complete** and a limited number of applicants are admitted every Fall quarter. The program is full-time, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Monday-Friday at the downtown campus. Typically, lectures are Monday and Tuesday on Zoom and labs are in the classroom on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday is reserved for fieldwork.

Graduates are prepared as a generalist in occupational therapy with highly developed interpersonal and clinical skills that meet the demands of the profession. The curriculum combines biological and behavioral sciences with occupational therapy concepts and treatment principles for practice in a variety of clinical settings. Classes focus on practice and application of clinical skills. Proficiency in communication skills, critical thinking, problem-solving and working as a professional team member are important components of the curriculum. The curriculum is designed to teach students therapeutic, interpersonal, and technical skills that are needed to be successful when working in a variety of healthcare and educational settings.

Students learn through lecture, labs, hands-on practice, and collaborations with local facilities, such as Bates Childcare where children are evaluated and treated in our new clinic. There is also an OTA/OTR collaboration between Bates OTA program and University of Puget Sound OT program. In addition, twenty hours of fieldwork occur in three of four quarters students are enrolled. Fieldwork means that students are placed in different work settings to observe OT practitioners, other disciplines and educators who provide services to individuals with disabilities.

After completing the first four quarters of OTA courses with a grade of 2.0 or better in each course, students are placed full-time in two, eight to ten-week clinical fieldwork experiences. After successfully completing the required clinical fieldworks with a grade of 2.0 or better, students earn an Associate's of Applied Science degree from Bates Technical College. Students then take a national board exam (NBCOT) and upon successfully passing the exam, they become a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) and are ready for employment.

The Program Mission

The mission of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program is to provide a supportive learning environment that will inspire and challenge students to become competent, caring, creative and conscientious professionals. The OTA program is based on the occupational therapy practice beliefs of therapeutic occupations as a way to remediate illness and maintain health. The curriculum is also based on the importance of establishing a therapeutic relationship that is

occupation-based, client-centered, contextual, and evidence-based. At the core of the OTA curriculum is teaching values, knowledge, and skills so our graduates are able to provide occupational therapy services with compassion, respect, and competence.

Approximate Cost of the Program

- Tuition and fees for six quarters (based on 2025-2026 tuition fees) = $13,899.56
  - Additional fees per credit: Hybrid course $6.00 / Online course $9.00
- Books – $845.00
- Clinical liability insurance, health insurance, immunizations, TB testing, health/dental check, and criminal background check- approximately $750.00 – depends on insurance
- Possible travel expenses to clinical fieldwork sites (5th and 6th quarters) – approximately $500.00
- Additional expenses after program completion - National Board OTA Certification Exam $555.00 and State OTA License- $166.00
- Please note that these fees may be subject to change.

OTA Program Entry Requirements and Enrollment Process

1. Information sessions are virtual. **Contact: https://www.batestech.edu/information-sessions**

2. Complete the five OTA foundation courses (prerequisites) with a minimum grade of 3.0 for each course by winter quarter with the exception of MATH 100+ which 2.5 is allowable.
   - See the advisor in Student Services regarding the OTA foundation (prerequisite) courses. Show proof of being at least 18 years of age and high school completion or GED.

3. Complete a minimum of 7 hours of observation or job shadowing in an occupational therapy setting. This may include practice settings such as a schools, skilled nursing facilities, hand clinics, work hardening, etc.
   - Download the Documentation of OT Observation Hours form **OR**
   - Download the SUBSTITUTION FORM FOR OBSERVATIONS

4. Complete the OTA program enrollment application from the Bates OTA webpage after January 5, 2026**.** The deadline for submitting the application will be on the OTA webpage; this year it is June 30, 2026. The OTA program accepts a limited number of students for Fall quarter enrollment. Selections for the OTA program are based on a first-come, first-

serve basis of applicants submitting a **completed application** with all required documents; however, **conditional enrollment** is also acceptable with the Course Planning Form filled out. This allows applicants to apply to the OTA program while still working on some of the foundation (prerequisite) courses.

The application tab provides the forms and the instructions for the following requirements:

- Complete the prerequisite courses and/or conditional enrollment form with all prerequisite courses completed by Summer, 2026.
- Provide a current letter of recommendation from an employer, supervisor or instructor who has known you for at least six months.
- Complete a written personal essay form in the application.
- Complete the Substitution Form for Observations or provide Documentation of Observation forms if you are able to observe a COTA or OTR in their work setting.
- Submit application via the link on the OTA program webpage.

Clinical Requirements for the OTA Program

Once accepted into the OTA program, the students will be oriented to documents that need to be submitted: current tuberculosis (TB) testing and immunizations (hepatitis B measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, varicella, and annual influenza, COVID-19 shots/booster), medical, dental health clearance and personal health insurance, clinical liability insurance coverage, and a national criminal background check.

Foundation coursework

Each of the five OTA foundation (prerequisite) courses must be completed with a grade of 3.0 or better except MATH 100+.

OTA foundation courses:	Bates course offerings:
1. English Composition- 5 credits	ENGL&101 or higher number
2. Math 100+ level math- 5 credits	MATH&107, 146, 171, 172, or 173
3. Anatomy & Physiology with lab - 5 credits	BIOL&175 or BIOL&241
4. Introduction Psychology - 5 credits	PSYC&100
5. Lifespan Psychology - 5 credits	PSYC&200

Bates Technical College offers a two-quarter track to guide students in acquiring these required prerequisites. Foundation courses can be taken in any order and at Bates or transferred to Bates from another institution. **Consult with OTA career advisor

	OTA Foundation Coursework		OTA Core Coursework					
	15 credits	**10 credits**	**Fall Qtr** 18 credits	**Winter Qtr** 20 credits	**Spring Qtr** 18 credits	**Summer Qtr** 18 credits	**Fall Qtr** 12 credits	**Winter Qtr** 12 credits
	PSYC& 100 General Psych → 5 credits	PSYC& 200 Lifespan Psychology 5 credits	OTA 111 Introduction to O.T.	OTA 105 Nervous System Functioning	OTA 205 Assistive Technology	OTA 202 Psychosocial Dysfunction	OTA 220 Clinical Fieldwork Rotation A	OTA 222 Clinical Fieldwork Rotation B
	ENGL& 101 English Composition 5 credits	BIOL&175 Survey of A&P 5 credits	OTA 102 Health & Wellness	OTA 112 Therapeutic Activities I	OTA 210 Physical Disabilities	OTA 231 Special Settings	OTA 221 Fieldwork Seminar A	OTA 223 Fieldwork Seminar B
	MATH 100+ 5 credits		OTA 103 Functional Movement	OTA 206 Development Disabilities	OTA 113 Therapeutic Activities II	OTA 232 Professional Issues		
	Students who have successfully completed at least one foundation course can apply to the program with a plan to take the remaining foundation courses <u>at Bates or other colleges</u> and complete each course with a grade of 3.0 or better.*See Conditional Enrollment and Course Planning Form in the Application to OTA Program		OTA 104 Therapeutic Use of Self	OTA 108 Fieldwork Level-I	OTA 203 Fieldwork Level-I	OTA 212 Fieldwork Level-I		
				OTA 110 Documentation Skills	OTA 204 Fieldwork Seminar	OTA 213 Fieldwork Seminar		

****The Above is a SAMPLE of Coursework Requirements in the OTA Program at Bates Technical College**

BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE
EST. 1940

Program Data

OTA Program Graduation Rates			
YEAR	Number of students enrolled in cohort	Number of program graduates	Percentage of program graduates
2013-14	19	18	95
2014-15	18	16	89
2015-16	19	17	89
2016-17	17	14	82
2017-19	20	17	85
2018-20	17	16	94
2019-21	15	13	87
2020-22	15	15	100%
2021-23	17	15	88%
2022-24	9	8	89%
2023-25	14	14	100%

National Board Certification Exam

Our graduates are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapy assistant administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). *Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure*.

To access the passing rates on the NBCOT examination of Bates OTA graduates, go online to https://www.nbcot.org/en/Educators/Home#SchoolPerformance

BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE
EST. 1940

Program Accreditation

December 2023, the OTA program at Bates obtained a ten-year full program accreditation with 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 (2682) OR (301) 652-6611, AND ITS WEB ADDRESS IS WWW.ACOTEONLINE.ORG**