

## **Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Description Associate in Applied Science**

The program will prepare students to become Occupational Therapy Assistants/ Certified who work in collaboration with licensed occupational therapists to help others fully participate in the job of living. Learning, growing, playing, working, managing our homes and caring for our families are among the “occupations” of life. Occupational Therapy enables people of all ages to regain, develop, or master the activities of daily life, to Live Life to Its Fullest! A career as an occupational therapy assistant offers a wide variety of opportunities to improve the lives of people from newborns to the very old.

The Associate in Applied Science degree program is a “one plus one” model program. Students interested in applying for this program may begin taking general education classes, 34 hours of prerequisites, to prepare for entrance into the second or specialized year of the program consisting of fourteen months of full time OTA study and supervised clinical fieldwork. The second or specialized year classes of the occupational therapy assistant program curriculum are only available to students after admission and acceptance through the Allied Health admissions process in the spring of the year.(see admissions link)

- General Education and Prerequisite Year of the program does not require admission to the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program.
- Any student who is interested may enroll in prerequisite classes.
- Occupational Therapy faculty will serve as advisors for students interested in OTA program
- Students must apply and be accepted into the second or OTA specialty year of the program.

### **Faculty**

#### **Jacquie Reaves, MS, OTR – Program Director**

Ms. Reaves has a broad background and experience in occupational therapy practice, OTA education, and administration with academic preparation at the master’s degree level.

#### **Cecelia Conoly, MOT, MPH – Instructor & Fieldwork Coordinator**

Ms. Conoly brings experience in teaching and clinical practice to the program.

Both faculty members are nationally certified and state licensed occupational therapists with varied clinical backgrounds and experience with the academic and clinical education of students at both the OTA and OTR level.

## Mission Statement

*The Murray State College OTA program prepares competent Occupational Therapy Assistants who support participation in daily life pursuits to improve the quality of life and health of clients in south central Oklahoma.*

The program is designed to prepare graduates to be effective providers of occupational therapy services within a healthcare team and under the direction of an occupational therapist and to act as responsible members of the profession.

Graduates of the OTA program will . . .

- Demonstrate the ability to think creatively and critically;
- Clarify and uphold the ethics, attitudes and values of the profession;
- Use effective communication skills; and
- Apply occupational therapy interventions based on current occupational therapy principles and best practice.

The A.A.S. degree program graduates will be prepared to take the nationally prepared certification examination. [www.nbcot.org](http://www.nbcot.org) Following successful completion of the certification examination, the graduate may enter the profession of occupational therapy and provide client-centered occupational therapy services under the direction and supervision of a qualified occupational therapist. At Murray State College, the Occupational Therapy Assistant program is designed to prepare the student “to deliver occupational therapy services under the supervision of and in partnership with the occupational therapist” (AOTA, 2005 Scope of Practice) and to uphold the core values and attitudes of occupational therapy practice (AOTA, 1993 Core Values and Attitudes). Effective occupational therapy service delivery involves a cooperative relationship between the supervising occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant using a client-centered approach with the person served and their family. The graduate will articulate the role and responsibility of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant in the supervisory process and be prepared to uphold the ethics, standards, values, and attitudes of the occupational therapy profession.