

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT AND PHYSIOTHERAPIST ASSISTANT

Program Outline

Major:	OPTA
Length:	2 Years
Delivery:	4 Semesters
Credential:	Ontario College Diploma
Effective:	2013-2014
Location:	Barrie
Start:	Fall (Barrie), Winter (Barrie)

Description

This program provides graduates with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary to function competently in the role of an Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant (OTA and PTA) in a complex health care environment. OTAs and PTAs work under the supervision of and in collaboration with occupational therapists and physiotherapists, respectively and assist these therapists to teach and enable clients to effectively cope with their limitations in movement, daily functioning, and activities whether temporary or permanent, during and following recovery. This program is a combination of practical and theoretical learning achieved through classroom, laboratory and field placements. To meet the needs of clients in agency and community settings, learning will take place with an interprofessional approach.

Career Opportunities

An OTA and PTA is a valued member of the Health Care Team. Graduates enter a dynamic and challenging career which offers opportunities in a variety of health and community settings including acute care, complex continuing care, mental health facilities, community agencies, long-term care facilities, rehabilitation centres, vocational rehabilitation programs, sports clinics, children's treatment centres, schools and private industry.

Program Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- communicate appropriately and effectively, through verbal, nonverbal, written and electronic means, with clients, their families, and significant others, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, other health care providers, and others within the role of the therapist assistant;
- participate in the effective functioning of interprofessional health care teams within the role of the therapist assistant;
- establish, develop, maintain, and bring closure to client-centred, therapeutic relationships within the role of the therapist assistant;
- ensure personal safety and contribute to the safety of others within the role of the therapist assistant;
- practice competently in a legal, ethical, and professional manner within the role of the therapist assistant;
- document and complete client records in a thorough, objective, accurate, and nonjudgmental manner within the role of the therapist assistant;
- develop and implement strategies to maintain, improve, and promote professional competence within the role of the therapist assistant;
- perform effectively within the roles and responsibilities of the therapist assistant through the application of relevant knowledge of health sciences, psychosociological sciences and health conditions;
- perform functions common to both physiotherapy and occupational therapy practices that contribute to the development, implementation and modification of intervention/treatment plans, under the supervision of and in collaboration with the occupational therapist and/or physiotherapist;
- enable the client's occupational performance by contributing to the development, implementation, and modification of intervention/treatment plans, under the supervision of and in collaboration with the occupational therapist;
- enable the client's optimal physical function by contributing to the development, implementation, and modification of intervention/treatment plans, under the supervision of and in collaboration with the physiotherapist;
- identify and implement environmentally-related initiatives relevant to the OTA&PTA profession.

External Recognition:

The graduate of this program may choose to become an associate member of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association.

The Program Progression:

Fall Intake - Barrie

Sem 1		Sem 2		Sem 3		Sem 4

Fall		Winter		Fall		Winter
2013		2014		2014		2015

Winter Intake - Barrie

Sem 1		Sem 2		Sem 3		Sem 4

Winter		Summer		Fall		Winter
2014		2014		2014		2015

Admission Requirements:

You must meet ONE of the following requirements to be eligible for admission to these programs:

Secondary school applicants:

- OSS Curriculum: OSSD or equivalent with Grade 12 English C or U (ENG4C, ENG4U); plus Grade 11 C or U, or 12 U Biology (SBI3U/C, SBI4U) or Grade 12 U Exercise Science (PSE4U), or equivalent.

Non-Secondary school applicants (19 years or older):

- Any credit Communication course and most credit biology courses taken at Georgian College
- College preparatory programs including those taken at Georgian College: Pre-health Sciences*
- Equivalent courses in English and biology taken through secondary school or Independent Learning Centres (at the general, advanced, college or university level)
- Academic and Career Entrance Certificate (ACE) program with communications and biology
- Mature student testing in English and testing/challenge exam in biology that meets the minimum standards for admission (available through most testing services)*
- Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate (GED) plus biology.
- English, Literature or Communication credit courses and most biology credit courses from accredited colleges/universities
- If home schooled, applicants can write the mature student testing in English and testing/challenge exam in biology that meets the minimum standards for admission (available through testing services)*

* available from Georgian College. For a complete listing please contact the Office of the Registrar.

Non-secondary school applicants who are 19 years of age or over by the first day of classes, and who lack the academic entrance qualifications, may be considered for entrance to an appropriate post-secondary diploma or certificate program as mature applicants. Mature applicants must meet all program specific prerequisites including all selection criteria; equivalencies are stated above. Applicants who are unsure whether they meet admission requirements should contact the Office of the Registrar. In addition, those applying as mature students and having no documentation of Grade 12 education must supply, if required, proof of age, such as a copy of an official birth certificate or driver's licence. Refer to Section 2.5 and 2.6 of the Academic Calendar for further details.

Credit transfer and course exemptions:

Applicants who have taken courses from a recognized and accredited post-secondary institution and/or have relevant life/learning experience may be eligible for credit transfer/course exemptions. Courses/experience must match at least 80% of the learning outcomes of a Georgian College course with a minimum grade of 60% or C achieved in previous coursework; some program exceptions apply (see program outline). For further information please visit the Credit Transfer Centre website: georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/

Selection Process:

Selection is based on admission requirements and academic grades. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.

Criminal Reference Check:

Placement agencies require an up-to-date clear criminal reference check and vulnerable sector check prior to going out on placement. Students should obtain their criminal reference check approximately one month prior to placement; checks conducted earlier may not be considered current. As some jurisdictions require longer lead-time for processing, please check with the program co-ordinator to ensure you allow for sufficient turn-around time. Students are required to provide these checks prior to placement start.

NOTE: A record of criminal offences, for which a pardon has not been granted, may prevent the student from completing their placement, thereby affecting their ability to graduate.

Additional Information:

Students must have an up-to-date immunization record in compliance with the Public

Hospitals Act. Completion and submission of this record is required during registration in order to ensure your placement in clinical and field placement facilities.

A Hepatitis B vaccination is required for your own safety. It may be obtained at a reduced cost through the student insurance plan.

Students are required to have Level HCP CPR and Standard First Aid during the first semester of the program (on-line courses are not acceptable). It is the student's responsibility to renew their Level HCP CPR certification annually while in the program. Students are asked to submit a copy of their current Level HCP CPR and Standard First Aid certificate to the program coordinator during the first semester for the following semester when field placements take place. A printable permit with all requirements will be provided.

A record of mask fit test (will be done at the college in semester two), renewed every two years, is required prior to the start of placements.

* Please note that due to the nature of this profession, OTAs and PTAs are required to tolerate regular physical activity during the course of their work day. It is recommended that you have a moderate level of fitness when entering the program.

Graduation Requirements:

- 15 Mandatory Courses
- 2 Clinical Placements
- 2 Communications Courses
- 3 General Education Courses

Graduation Eligibility:

To graduate from this program, the passing weighted average for promotion through each semester, from year to year and to graduate is 60%. Additionally, a student must attain a minimum of 50% or a letter grade of P (Pass) or S (Satisfactory) in each course in each semester.

Mandatory Courses

- BIOL1014 The Essential Body
- ETHC2001 Professional Ethics in Rehabilitation
- GERT2000 Concepts of Gerontology
- HUMD1000 Human Movement Fundamentals
- HUMD2000 Cognitive and Perceptual Impairment
- OCPT1000 Introductory Rehabilitation Concepts
- OCPT1001 Treatment Techniques
- OCPT1002 Musculoskeletal Treatment Fundamentals
- OCPT1003 Musculoskeletal Treatment Techniques

OCPT2000 Neurological Pathologies
OCPT2001 Neurological Pathologies Lab
OCPT2003 Complex Systems Pathologies
OCPT2004 Complex Systems: Lab
PSYL2002 Mental Health Challenges
SCIE1001 Musculoskeletal Pathologies

Clinical Placements

OCPT2002 Clinical Placement 1
OCPT2005 Clinical Placement 2: Consolidation

Communications Courses

To be selected at time of registration from the College list, as determined by testing.

General Education Courses

To be selected from College list

Course Descriptions:

BIOL1014 The Essential Body 42.0 Hours

This course will provide the student with a foundational overview of human anatomy from a systems perspective including but not limited to the gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, respiratory, renal, integumentary, immune, endocrine and reproductive systems. Focus will be on the inter relationships of these systems as it relates to normal human function.

ETHC2001 Professional Ethics in Rehabilitation 42.0 Hours

This course provides students with the opportunities to identify and investigate current professional issues that are relevant to the field. Professional relationships and boundaries, conflict resolution, interpersonal communication and therapeutic relationships, ethical dilemmas, documentation and informatics, are examples of some areas that will be explored in relation to the OTA and PTA role.

GERT2000 Concepts of Gerontology 28.0 Hours

This course provides an overview of the normal aging processes including the physical, cognitive, sensory and psychological needs of older adults. Common pathological problems and degenerative diseases, along with specialized needs in aging and palliative care are highlighted to help students understand how the aging process affects treatment approaches in occupational therapy and physiotherapy. Community resources and the role of the OTA and PTA in promoting the health and rehabilitation of older adults will be discussed.

P- OCPT1000 Introductory Rehabilitation Concepts and C- OCPT2000 Neurological Pathologies and C- OCPT2001 Neurological Pathologies Lab, Co-HUMD2000 Cognitive and Perceptual Impairment

HUMD1000 Human Movement Fundamentals 42.0 Hours

This course is comprised of two components: theoretical and lab practice. The theoretical portion introduces students to the basic concepts and theories related to the mechanics of movement and the principles of motor control. Students will develop an understanding of the basic principles and mechanics of human movement and their relationship to function and mobility.

HUMD2000 Cognitive and Perceptual Impairment 28.0 Hours

This course introduces students to cognitive and perceptual impairments in children, adults and the elderly. Hearing, vision and memory loss, speech and swallowing impairments and communicative disorders will be examined and strategies for effective communication and treatments will be discussed and practiced.

P- BIOL1014 The Essential Body and C- GERT2000 Concepts of Gerontology and C- OCPT2000 Neurological Pathologies

OCPT1000 Introductory Rehabilitation Concepts 42.0 Hours

This course provides an introduction to the scope of practice and the role of the OTA and PTA. Discussion will include the historical development of occupational therapy and physiotherapy; influences affecting practice; differences in practice settings; introductory ethics, confidentiality and privacy legislation; professional expectations; communication and relationships; client diversity; documentation and informatics; environmental issues and the structure of the healthcare system.

OCPT1001 Treatment Techniques 42.0 Hours

This course provides students with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required to interact safely and competently with a variety of clients. In a lab setting, students will practice and demonstrate competence with foundational treatment techniques for OTA and PTA practice, such as therapeutic exercise and use of occupation in treatment. Students will also develop competence with documentation skills, infection control and safe body mechanics.

C- HUMD1000 Human Movement Fundamentals

OCPT1002 Musculoskeletal Treatment Fundamentals 42.0 Hours

This course is a combination of theory and a laboratory experience. Students will develop treatment skills for a range of acute and chronic musculoskeletal conditions with increased concentration of Physiotherapy techniques and modalities.

P- BIOL1014 The Essential Body and P- HUMD1000 Human Movement Fundamentals and P- OCPT1001 Treatment Techniques and C- SCIE1001 Musculoskeletal Pathologies

OCPT1003 Musculoskeletal Treatment Techniques 112.0 Hours

This course is a combination of laboratory experience and fieldwork placement. Students will develop treatment skills for a range of acute and chronic musculoskeletal conditions with increased concentration on Occupational Therapy techniques. Strategies for maximizing student success in both Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy fieldwork placements will be explored. Placements will be available in a variety of musculoskeletal practice settings, allowing students supervised practice of skills and competencies acquired in first and second semester theory and lab courses. P- HUMD1000 Human Movement Fundamentals and P- OCPT1001 Treatment Techniques and C- OCPT1002 Musculoskeletal Treatment Fundamentals and C- SCIE1001 Musculoskeletal Pathologies

OCPT2000 Neurological Pathologies 42.0 Hours

In this course, students investigate the function and anatomy of the neurological system, and will be introduced to theoretical knowledge, psychological and social aspects related to a variety of neurological challenges which are part of occupational and physical therapy practice. Discussion will include conditions such as cerebral palsy, CVA, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries and dementias and the principles of treatment associated with these conditions as well as how the environment impacts health.

C- HUMD2000 Cognitive and Perceptual Impairment, Co-OCPT2001 Neurological Pathologies Lab

OCPT2001 Neurological Pathologies Lab 42.0 Hours

This course provides students with the opportunity to expand on the theoretical knowledge of neurological conditions. In this lab-based course, students will acquire and develop practical skills, including documentation, to safely and effectively provide treatment to support the highest level of function for patients with neurological conditions and challenges, as directed by the Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist.

C- HUMD2000 Cognitive and Perceptual Impairment, Co-OCPT2000 Neurological Pathologies

OCPT2002 Clinical Placement 1 196.0 Hours

Students gain valuable experience in a variety of settings that provide OT/PT services. Students will begin to participate in appropriate treatment and intervention activities as well as become aware of environmental issues that affect chronic (and acute) in order to consolidate their skill and gain valuable discipline specific experience. Students will be required to participate in a number of activities to document, reflect and evaluate their personal professional development in the clinical settings.

P- OCPT1003 Musculoskeletal Treatment Techniques and C- GERT2000 Concepts of Gerontology and C- HUMD2000 Cognitive and Perceptual Impairment

OCPT2003 Complex Systems Pathologies 42.0 Hours

This course provides students with an overview of more complex body systems and related pathologies. Students will examine the cardiovascular, respiratory, immune,

renal, metabolic, endocrine and immune systems, the pathological processes that impact these systems, and how these processes impact and influence treatment and management approaches in occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

OCPT2004 Complex Systems: Lab 42.0 Hours

This course provides students with the opportunity to explore and practice the treatment modalities and interventions related to the pathological processes studied in Complex Systems: theories. Advanced practice skills and treatments, including electrotherapeutic modalities and treatments, will be explored and developed.

OCPT2005 Clinical Placement 2: Consolidation 280.0 Hours

This final placement occurs in an occupational therapy or physiotherapy setting. Focus will be placed on the integration and consolidation of academic knowledge, laboratory and placement skills to function both independently and in collaboration with others. Prior to entering the practice setting, students will prepare for the specific setting, develop appropriate learning goals and identify initiatives pertaining to environmental issues. Upon successful completion, the student will be ready to graduate as a competent practitioner.

PSYL2002 Mental Health Challenges 42.0 Hours

This course introduces students to common mental health challenges experienced across the lifespan. Psychosocial treatment principles and therapy practice models and group and individual intervention techniques will be explored and related to occupational and physiotherapy treatment and the role of the OTA and PTA in the mental health setting.

SCIE1001 Musculoskeletal Pathologies 42.0 Hours

In this course, students focus on musculoskeletal pathologies that may present in clinical practice. Knowledge of congenital, acquired and degenerative conditions and how these are treated within occupational therapy and physiotherapy practice will be explored. Environmental issues will be explored for their impact on client function and mobility.

P- BIOL1014 The Essential Body

Course Description Legend

P = Prerequisite; C = Concurrent prerequisite; CO= Corequisite

Information contained in College documents respecting programs is correct at the time of publication. Academic content of programs and courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational objectives and employment market needs. The college reserves the right to add or delete programs, options, courses,

timetables or campus locations subject to sufficient enrolment, and the availability of courses.