

ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The associate degree in Occupational Therapy is designed for students who want to become Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTAs), working under the supervision of Occupational Therapists to enable people of all ages to function as independently as possible in their daily lives. COTAs assist therapists in evaluating, planning, and providing services to clients so they may care for their own personal needs; be productive in their homes, workplaces, or schools; and engage in leisure activities.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant program is a five semester program that includes courses specific to the major as well as general education courses to help students develop a general knowledge base. The program includes courses in psychology, anatomy, physiology, human development and family studies, and others. The US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics states, "Employment is expected to grow much faster than average as demand for occupational therapy services rises."

The program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) through the 2023-2024 academic year.

**Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)**  
c/o Accreditation Department  
American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)  
4720 Montgomery Lane Suite 200 Phone: 301-652-AOTA  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3449 www.acoteonline.org

## Gain Marketable Experience in College

Students in the Occupational Therapy degree program are required to complete two eight-week internships at health care facilities under the supervision of qualified occupational therapy personnel. Following graduation, students are eligible to take the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam.

## Career Opportunities

Graduates of the program will be well prepared for careers as Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants. These professionals work in a variety of settings such as assisted living and skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation centers, schools, hospitals, psychiatric centers, work hardening and adjustment programs, home health, hand centers, as well as community and wellness settings.

David Kresse

Program Chair

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## Admission Process

Applying for degree admission to Penn State Berks is simple. Applications are available on the web at [berks.psu.edu](http://berks.psu.edu). Penn State reviews applications throughout the year. Students can expect a decision within four to six weeks after completing the process. Contact the Berks Admissions Office with your questions at 610-396-6060.

## Transfer Students

Penn State Berks welcomes students who began their education at other institutions. Contact the Berks Admissions Office with your transfer questions at 610-396-6060.

## Financial Aid

Eligibility for all financial aid is determined by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form available on the web at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov). Contact the financial aid coordinator at Berks or visit [psu.edu/studentaid](http://psu.edu/studentaid) for a complete description of the types of available student aid and the application process at 610-396-6070.

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