



Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

Our Program: Mercy College's Occupational Therapy Assistant Program has been consistently delivering excellent professional education to a wide range of students. With pride, we can state that we have produced 525 successful graduates since 1998 and have been contributing to the Tri-State healthcare workforce by providing a strong and crucial pool of Certified OT Assistants. Our two-year Associate's program remains committed to maintaining the high standards and diversity of our student body.

Designed for adult learners who are considering a career transition, our two-year associate in applied science degree offers flexible part-time or full-time evening courses. We provide Level I fieldwork which is closely tied to our primary clinical courses and can be experienced through either simulated or in-person contexts. Additionally, Level II fieldwork opportunities are available during the Summer and Fall terms at various community, adult, geriatric, behavioral health, and pediatric sites.

Students enrolled in our OTA program also can transfer up to 61 out of 68 credits towards Mercy College's Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences. This program is particularly beneficial for those who are pursuing the pre-OT track.

Our faculty:

We are proud to announce that our OTA program Director, **Dr. Cristina Dumitrescu, Ed.D.; MS, OTR/L, OTA/L**, has recently earned her doctorate in education. Her dissertation focused on "Predictors of Academic Success in First Semester Nursing Students," and the findings were published in a peer-reviewed journal. Dr. Dumitrescu's dedication to academic excellence and research is a testament to her commitment to our program and the wider healthcare community. We are privileged to have her leadership and expertise as part of our team.

Our faculty has undergone some exciting changes and enhancements. We are thrilled to **welcome Jennifer Fernandes MBA, COTA/L**, as our new Assistant Professor, Associate Director, and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. Her expertise and experience in the field will undoubtedly benefit our program and students alike.

Our esteemed faculty for the Fall 2023 semester includes **Dr. Neil Harvison, PhD, OTR, FNAP, FAOTA**, **Prof. Elizabeth Berliner, MS, OTR/L**, **Dr. Nadilus Rojas** and **Prof. Diane Heimer, MS, OTR/L**. We are fortunate to have such

knowledgeable and experienced professionals on our team. All together, the faculty offers over 130 years of professional expertise.

Mercy's OTA Program recognizes the ongoing importance of **interprofessional education** in preparing students to collaborate with other healthcare disciplines to achieve optimal patient outcomes. As part of this commitment, OTA students engage in various interdisciplinary activities, such as client interviews and book panels. Most recently, students took part in a Medical Mission in Dominican Republic, serving the local population that work in the sugarcane fields and have no access to healthcare.



We are excited for our new partnership Level I Fieldwork opportunity on campus with the Volunteer of New York RISE and our OTA Students. Our OTA students join forces with VNY RISE Participants by creating care packages for veterans. The project has been a valuable learning experience for our students, providing them with hands-on experience in developing client-centered interventions and enhancing their communication and collaboration skills. We are proud of our students for their contributions to this meaningful initiative and look forward to the continued partnership with Volunteer of New York.

