

Admission Requirements for the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program



Idaho State
University

College of
Technology

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is a competitive entry program. Application to the program does not guarantee admission. The program admits students once a year for the fall semester. *The deadline for applying to ISU, completing the program application, submission of all related admission documents is March 15th.* You are encouraged to submit your application and supporting materials early if complete, however, no extra points are awarded if turned in early.

The following process will be used to determine the students who are selected for admission into the program. Each step is mandatory and must be completed by the deadline. No exceptions will be granted. It is the applicant's responsibility to read and understand the application process.

Phase I: College Admission Process

Step 1 _____ Apply to Idaho State University.

This must be completed *prior* to applying to the OTA program. Complete an undergraduate application for ISU admission here: <https://www.isu.edu/apply/>

- When asked for your Student Type, please select "College of Technology" - that will enable you to select the OTA Program.

Step 2 _____ Submit all official transcripts to Idaho State University Admissions Office. Please verify receipt by calling (208) 282-2475.

- Official transcripts from each school previously attended, whether accredited or unaccredited, must be sent to ISU Admissions. Official transcripts must be submitted to Idaho State University by the awarding institution. Transcripts will not be accepted directly from a student.

Step 3 ____ Submit test scores.

Submit ALEKS Math Placement, COMPASS, SAT, or ACT scores. ACT and SAT test scores are valid for seven years; ALEKS scores are valid for two years.

- Please contact the Health Occupations Advisor for assistance and further clarification.

Step 4 ____ Meet with the Advisor.

Meet with the College of Technology OTA / Health Occupations Advisor to finalize your acceptance (if you are not currently an ISU student) and to go over the details of the application for the current cycle. *To make an appointment, call (208)282-2622.*

Phase II: Program Admissions Process

Step 5 ____ Complete the Student Essay.

Follow the prompt given as posted on the application website:

<https://www.isu.edu/ota/ota-application/>. The essay provides insight for the program regarding what you know about OTA as a profession. It will also provide some insight into you as a future practitioner.

Step 6 ____ Two (2) Letters of Recommendation.

These forms are included on the application website. These should come from someone who knows your character and/or your work ethic. Examples can be faculty, teachers, coaches, bosses, and people who have known you for 5+ years from church or other volunteer or work activities. Please do not ask friends or have a familial relation with your references.

Step 7 ____ Complete and Document Observation Hours.

OPTION 1: Take Intro to Occupational Therapy OTPT 2209, completing it successfully with a 73% (or higher) AND 20 hours of observation from 2 different populations (geriatric/pediatrics) and/or settings (inpatient/outpatient/home health).

OPTION 2: 40 hours (20 each) of observation from 2 different populations (geriatric/pediatrics) and/or settings (inpatient/outpatient/home health).

Step 8_____Complete OTA Program Application on program website.

Phase III: Selection Process

Once the deadline passes and all applications have been received and processed, up to 20 students will be chosen to start in the following Fall OTA Cohort. Students who are not accepted may be placed on a waitlist and will be contacted if a space becomes available.

The admissions team consists of the OTA Program Coordinator and OTA Faculty along with the OTA / Health Occupations Advisor. Applicants will be ranked based on:

- Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Preference Courses Completed (with a final grade of "C" or higher)
- Forms / Letters of Reference
- Observation Hours
- Student Essay

Once applicants have been ranked, the program reserves 30 days to make their decisions.

All applicants will be contacted via email (ISU account) and via letter whether they are accepted, being placed on the waitlist, or not accepted.

If accepted, candidates for each cohort will need to complete their requirements for the program which include:

- Recent medical exam with up-to-date immunizations:
 - MMR, Tetanus, TB, Hepatitis C, Varicella
- Verification of current health insurance
- CPR for Healthcare Providers (available through ISU Continuing Education/Idaho Workforce Training)
- Background Check and Drug Test

Updated 10/2018, 11/2019, 1/2021, 11/2021, 09/2022