The following are some frequently asked questions about the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program (OTA) programs.

**What is occupational therapy?**

Occupational therapy is a healthcare profession that enables people of all ages to live life to its fullest by helping them promote health and prevent illness, injury, or disability.

**Does the name "Occupation" have to do with employment?**

No, not in the strict sense of occupation being what we do to earn a living, although employment is included in Activities of Daily Living Skills. By definition, occupation means all the activities a person performs to sustain themselves in their environment and socioeconomic settings.

**What is the difference in physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT)?**

Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy work together as part of a team. Both disciplines use therapeutic exercises, heat/cold treatments, and splinting to improve a person's ability to perform daily activities. Occupational Therapy uses a holistic and creative approach to patient care and focuses on the upper extremities and trunk in activities of daily living in the home and work environments. Emphasis is placed on improving cognitive, sensory, psychosocial, and leisure skills. Physical Therapy focuses on gross motor movements of the trunk and lower extremities as well as gait training.

**What are the general abilities and essential skill requirements for an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) in the workplace?**

Select this [Abilities/Essential Skill Requirements](#) link for details
What are the educational requirements and professional credentials in occupational therapy?

There are two categories in the profession of occupational therapy, the Occupational Therapist and the Occupational Therapy Assistant. An Occupational Therapist is a healthcare professional who evaluates and treats people with health problems resulting from impairments, injury, or disease. The minimal education requirement is a Master’s degree in occupational therapy. An Occupational Therapy Assistant is a skilled healthcare provider who treats clients under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist. The minimal educational requirement is an Associate’s degree in occupational therapy assistant. Both levels must graduate from an accredited program, pass a national certification examination, and obtain licensure from the state licensure board to work in Texas.

What is the job market like for occupational therapy assistants?

The job market for occupational therapy assistants is expected to increase much faster than the average profession. Recent trends show an increase in jobs in the San Antonio metropolitan area and a fair to good job market is reflected in South Texas urban and rural areas.

What kind of salary can I expect to make as an occupational therapy assistant?

It depends on what area of the country you choose to take employment. In Texas, most metropolitan facilities start a new graduate at approximately $35,000 to $40,000 annually. Clinics are competitive with salaries and benefits as well.

How long is the program? After completing the prerequisite courses, the Occupational Therapy Assistant program is two years in length.
Can the program be completed on a part-time basis?
No. All courses must be taken in sequence and can be taken only in the semester listed. Each semester is a full load with 12-14 semester hours of course work.

Are classes available on weekends or evenings?
Currently, all classes are offered during weekdays. The program does not foresee offering weekend or evening courses in the near future.

Can I work while enrolled in the program?
It is strongly recommended the student plan to work only minimally, if at all, while enrolled in the program. The course work is heavily weighted in medical concepts and treatment applications, which require considerable commitment and dedication to study time. Clinical assignment in the last semester will require a schedule of 40 hours per week to complete an on-the-job, field work experience.

What is the deadline for applications?
Application and all supporting documents are due February 15th for consideration to begin the program in August.

Do I have to provide a transcript from St. Philip’s with my application if I have taken all my prerequisites there?
Yes. The applicant is responsible for submitting official transcripts that show proof of having completed prerequisite courses. The selection committee only reviews documents included in the application packet.

What is the cost per semester for this program?
Please refer to the college’s tuition and fee schedule page. Please note on the tuition schedule there is a special tuition fee of $700 per semester for
students enrolled in one of the Allied Health programs. (exception; Health Information Systems and Radiography Technology the special tuition fee is $500).