

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT AND PHYSIOTHERAPIST ASSISTANT (OTP)

About the Program

An Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Assistant is a versatile healthcare professional who assists licensed occupational therapists and physiotherapists in providing comprehensive rehabilitative care to patients. With a broad skill set, they support individuals of various age groups in enhancing their physical, cognitive, emotional, and developmental well-being. By implementing treatment plans, guiding patients through exercises, teaching adaptive techniques and monitoring progress, these professionals contribute to improving functional independence, mobility, and overall quality of life. Their dedication helps patients recover from injuries, surgeries and medical conditions, facilitating their journey towards regaining strength, flexibility and overall physical well-being.

Ontario has seen a growing need to support the aging population, individuals with disabilities as well as those with rehabilitative needs or injuries. Occupational therapists, physiotherapists and their assistants are much needed health care professionals responsible for helping individuals to recover and maintain their physical abilities while managing functional limitations associated with a range of acute/chronic conditions.

Credential Awarded

Ontario College Diploma

Duration

4 Semesters (2 Years)

Starts

September

Program and Course Delivery

This program is offered in Seneca's hybrid delivery format with some courses available in Seneca's flexible delivery format. Some coursework is online and some must be completed in person. Students will need to come on campus to complete in-person learning requirements. For courses offered in the flexible delivery format, professors use innovative learning spaces and technology to teach students in a classroom or lab and broadcast in real time to students attending remotely. In flexible courses, students have the choice of coming on campus or learning online.

Supplies Required

All students are required to purchase their own lab coat, goniometer, soft retractable measuring tape and stethoscope. Details about where to purchase these supplies will be provided ahead of first semester.

Skills

Throughout this program you will develop the following skills:

- Communicate appropriately and effectively with clients, families and others

- Practice competently in a legal, ethical and professional manner
- Document and complete client records in a thorough, objective, accurate and non-judgmental manner
- Contribute to the development, implementation and modification of intervention/treatment plans, under the supervision of and in collaboration with the occupational therapist or physiotherapist
- Incorporate principles of equity, inclusion, belonging and Indigenous understanding of health and wellness into professional practice to optimize client care

Work Experience

Students will be exposed to their professional environment by completing four mandatory work placements spread across semesters two, three and four. Students must be in good standing and meet all requirements prior to participating in the work placements. The successful completion of all four placements is required for graduation. Eligibility for participation does not guarantee that a particular placement will be secured.

Your Career

Graduates of the program can explore the following career options:

- occupational therapy and physiotherapy clinics
- hospitals
- extended care facilities
- other healthcare facilities

Program of Study

Course Code	Course Name	Weekly Hours
Semester 1		
COM101 or COM111	Communicating Across Contexts Communicating Across Contexts (Enriched)	3
OTP100	Introduction to the Canadian Healthcare System	3
OTP101	Anatomy and Physiology	4
OTP102	Human Kinetics	4
OTP103	Orientation to OTA and PTA Roles	3
OTP104	Therapeutic Communication and Documentation	2
OTP105	Two-eyed Seeing and Healthcare	3
OTP106	Developmental Psychology in OTA/PTA Practice	3
Semester 2		
OTP200	PTA – Principles and Techniques I	5
OTP201	OTA – Principles and Techniques I	5
OTP202	Human Conditions I	3
OTP203	Social Determinants of Health	3
OTP204	Establishing Client-Centered and Reflective Practice	2
OTP205	Introduction to Clinical Practice	3
OTP206	Professional Ethics	3
plus: General Education Course (1)		3

Semester 3

OTP300	PTA-Principles and Techniques II	5
OTP301	OTA-Principles and Techniques II	5
OTP302	Concepts in Mental Health	3
OTP303	Human Conditions II	3
OTP304	Intermediate Clinical Placement	13

Semester 4

OTP400	Rehabilitation and Career Readiness	3
OTP401	Consolidated Clinical Placement I	13
OTP402	Consolidated Clinical Placement II	13
plus: General Education Course (1)		3

This Seneca program has been validated by the Credential Validation Service as an Ontario College Credential as required by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

As a graduate, you will be prepared to reliably demonstrate 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.

- Incorporate principles of equity, inclusion, belonging, and Indigenous understanding of health and wellness into professional practice to optimize client care

Admission Requirements

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), or equivalent, or a mature applicant.
- Grade 12 English (C or U)
- Grade 11 or 12 biology (C or U) OR Grade 12 exercise science (U), or equivalent

Canadian citizens and permanent residents may meet English requirements for this program through successful Seneca pre-admission testing. (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/mature-applicants.html>)

Recommended upgrading for applicants who do not meet academic subject requirements (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/upgrading-options.html>).

Additional Information

After admission, to be eligible for clinical practicum placements, students must have a completed Clinical Preparedness Permit which includes:

Medical Requirements

- current immunization records as outlined in the Canadian Immunization Guide for health-care workers
- bloodwork for immune status of hepatitis B/varicella/measles/mumps and rubella
- TB testing/CXR as required

Non-Medical Requirements

- a current Basic Life Support Certificate renewed annually
- Standard First Aid valid for four years, online courses are not acceptable
- record of mask fit test, renewed every two years
- criminal record check and vulnerable sector screening (annually)

Transportation

- Clinical practicum placements are in a variety of agencies in the Greater Toronto Area. Students are required to provide their own transportation. Placement shifts may vary in duration, potentially starting as early as 6 a.m. and may include weekends and evenings.

International Student Information

International admissions requirements vary by program and in addition to English requirements (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/international/apply/how-to-apply/admission-requirements/english-requirements.html>), programs may require credits in mathematics, biology, and chemistry at a level equivalent to Ontario's curriculum, or a postsecondary degree or diploma, equivalent to an Ontario university or college. Program-specific pre-requisite courses and credentials are listed with the admission requirements on each program page. To review the academic requirements please visit: Academic Requirements - Seneca, Toronto, Canada ([senecapolytechnic.ca](https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca)) (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/>)

international/apply/how-to-apply/admission-requirements/academic-requirements.html).

To learn more about your eligibility, visit the Academic Pathways (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/pathways.html>) web page.

Pathways

As a leader in academic pathways, we offer a range of options that will allow you to take your credential further in another Seneca program or a program at a partner institution.

Last updated: August 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.