



CAREER PATH

# Health

CAREER CLUSTER

**Health Sciences**

CAREER PATHWAY

**Therapeutic Services**



## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Assist occupational therapists in providing occupational therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with state laws, assist in development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, direct activity programs, and document the progress of treatments. Generally requires formal training.

### Knowledge and Skills Needed

In addition to courses required for high school graduation, essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as an occupational therapist assistant are reinforced by taking rigorous and relevant courses, as well as participating in work-based experiences and student organization activities.

*(See the Sample Personal Plan of Study for suggested coursework, activities, and knowledge and skills to pursue in preparation of an occupation in this Career Cluster.)*

### Education Requirements

Occupation	Percent of Missouri employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is:		
	High School or Less	Some College	Bachelor Degree or More
Occupational therapist assistants	2.6%	84.2%	13.2%
Occupational and physical therapist assistants and aides	8.0%	75.3%	16.8%
Healthcare support	30.6%	55.8%	13.6%

Most Common Educational Level: Associate degree

Note: Be sure to learn whether your occupation has a specific requirement for education or licensing. Apprenticeships are available for more than 240 occupations. Visit [www.oe.doleta.gov/bat.cfm](http://www.oe.doleta.gov/bat.cfm)

### National and State Wage Information

Location	Pay Period	2008		
		Entry*	Median	Experienced**
United States	Hourly	\$18.87	\$23.19	\$27.80
	Yearly	\$39,200	\$48,200	\$57,800
Missouri	Hourly	\$19.36	\$21.94	\$24.42
	Yearly	\$40,300	\$45,600	\$50,800

Based on (\*) lower 25% and (\*\*) upper 25% percentile of wages

### National and State Employment Trends

Occupational Therapist Assistants	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings*
	2008	2018		
United States	26,600	34,600	+30%	1,180
Missouri	600	690	+16%	20

\*The estimate for Job Openings includes both turnover that results from people who leave the occupation (e.g. quit, retire, death) and new jobs that are created.

### Educational Opportunities

*Note: This list may not be all inclusive. For more information about Missouri schools and programs, visit [www.dhe.mo.gov](http://www.dhe.mo.gov)*

#### Metropolitan Community College -Penn Valley

Kansas City, MO  
(816) 604-5000  
[www.mcckc.edu](http://www.mcckc.edu)

#### Ozarks Technical Community College

Springfield, MO  
(417) 447-7500  
[www.otc.edu](http://www.otc.edu)

#### St Louis Community College -Meramec

Kirkwood, MO  
(314) 984-7500  
[www.stlcc.edu](http://www.stlcc.edu)

#### Sanford-Brown College

Hazelwood, MO  
(314) 687-2900  
[www.sanford-browncollege.com](http://www.sanford-browncollege.com)

#### St Charles Community College

Cottleville, MO  
(636) 922-8000  
[www.stchas.edu](http://www.stchas.edu)



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