

UA Cossatot

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Dear Applicant:

We would like to thank you for your interest in the OTA Program at UA Cossatot. There are some items of information we would like for you to know to help you make your decision easier and make sure there are no surprises if you are accepted into the program.

The application deadline for the OTA Program is March 1st of each year. All application documents must be submitted by the required deadline in order to be considered for admission. Pre-requisite coursework must be completed or in progress of completion by the March 1st deadline to meet requirements. Students not selected in the program will need to fill out a new online application and forms each year.

The OTA Program is accredited through the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) and is housed at UA Cossatot's Little River Campus in Ashdown, Arkansas. This program awards an Associate of Applied Science and is a two and a half year program. Following the completion of pre-requisite courses, students are accepted into the technical portion which begins each August and ends the following December. Classroom days are approximately six-eight hours with clinical/fieldwork days 8-12 hours each. Days and hours may vary depending on the course you are in and the required clinical hours. Clinical and workshops may be required on weekends as well but you will be given plenty of notice so you can make arrangements. Some of the clinical sites are some distance from the campus, ie, Texarkana, De Queen, Nashville, Hope, Paris, etc. You will be required to arrange transportation to these areas as well as mandatory workshops or class trips out of town.

The cost of the entire program is **approximately** \$16,000-\$17,000 and we have included a breakdown of charges on the UA Cossatot website. Uniforms will be ordered during orientation and must be paid for at that time. Students will be required to purchase a Microsoft based tablet before the first day of class. Students will be given an opportunity to purchase one through the college and have the tablet cost distributed over the first three semesters of the program at an approximate cost of \$630.00. There are several financial aid opportunities available. It is strongly recommended that if you are interested in financial aid that you contact the Financial Aid Department for information on what aid is available. The financial aid application priority deadline for fall is May 1st and the priority deadline for spring is November 1st. Students are encourage to apply early to avoid any delays of possible tuition payments until financial aid is processed.

Because medical programs are very intense and so much material will be covered in a very short period of time, attendance in class and clinical is critical. Attendance is strictly monitored and excessive absences and tardies will impact the ability to progress in the program. Students must maintain a 76% in both theory and clinical to progress through the program.

You will be required to submit a criminal background check prior to admission (\$50-\$75). If accepted into the program, your admission will remain “conditional” until your background check has cleared. Throughout the program there will be random drug screens for all students. Upon completion of the program, the Arkansas State Medical Board also requires each candidate to submit a State and Federal criminal background check which will be included in the state licensure application fee. The background check submitted for admission to UA Cossatot will not be accepted by the Arkansas State Medical Board. Any student who has ever been convicted of a crime may not be eligible for OTA licensure in Arkansas and/or certification by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. If this applies, more information is available on each of the credentialing body’s websites. This program also requires the submission of evidence of immunizations prior to admission and throughout the program.

Each student must meet UA Cossatot’s ACT and/or Compass catalog admission requirements and have completed or are currently enrolled in all pre-requisite courses, as well as any developmental courses, needed prior to the application deadline (see academic catalog for admission and pre-requisite course requirements). Any student who is chosen as an alternate must have also completed the above courses in case a student withdraws before the beginning of the program.

Any student, initially chosen or an alternate, who has not completed the courses will not be admitted into the program. The OTA Program at UA Cossatot has the **capability** of accepting 15 students and 3 alternates. However, UA Cossatot reserves the right to accept only those applicants who have met all requirements. The selection process will be based on following criteria and students are ranked from top to bottom.

- Pre-requisites (academic core) GPA
- TEAS VI scores (see website for scheduling information)
- Recommendations
- Video Observations
- Interview

We wish you well in the upcoming semesters. If you have any questions, please call the Division of Medical Education at (870) 584-1154 or (800) 844-4471 x1154 or the OTA Program offices at (870) 584-1496.

Sincerely,

OTA Program Faculty and Staff