Admission Requirements for the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program is a competitive entry program and application does not guarantee admission. The program admits students once a year in the fall semester. The minimum requirements needed for applying to the OTA program are as follows:

- Minimum overall GPA of 2.5
- Completion of Prerequisite Coursework:
  - Concepts of Biology BIO 1101 & 1101L or Biology of Human Concerns BIO 1100 & 1100L
  - Medical Terminology HO 106 or HCA 2210 or HE2210
  - General Psychology PSYC 1101
- Completion of Job Shadowing/Observation hours
- Completion of written essay
- Two letters of recommendation

The deadline for submitting an application to the college and all related admission documents is March 15th. You are encouraged to submit your application packet early if it is complete. The following process will be used to determine the students who are selected for admission into the program. Each step in Phases I and II are 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: ISU Admission Process (If current ISU student, skip to Phase II)

Step 1 _____ Apply to Idaho State University. This must be completed prior to applying to the OTA program. Complete an application for admission and pay fees online. Be sure to click on the College of Technology Application and select your program choice.

Step 2 _____ Submit Official Transcripts to Idaho State University

Idaho State University has different requirements for the following groups of students:

- Freshmen - Students who have not enrolled in any college or university after graduating from high school (or receiving a GED).
  1. Submit an official high school transcript or GED. Official transcripts must be mailed in a sealed envelope to Idaho State University by the awarding institution. Transcripts will not be accepted directly from a student.
  2. Submit official ACT or SAT Scores*
• **Transfer Students** - Students who have 14 or more attempted and/or in-progress credits at any college or university after graduating from high school (or receiving a GED) prior to enrolling at Idaho State University.

  1. Submit an official transcript from each college previously attended, whether accredited or unaccredited, to Idaho State University*. Official transcripts must be mailed in a sealed envelope to Idaho State University by the awarding institution. Transcripts will not be accepted directly from a student.

Transcripts should be mailed to the following address:
Idaho State University Admissions
921 S. 8th Ave., Stop 8270
Pocatello, ID 83902
In-state transcripts may be faxed to (208) 282-4511

*If you do not have college level math or English, or your ACT/SAT, or Compass scores are lower than the minimum requirements for the OTA program or out-of-date, you may need to take the ALEKS (math) or Accuplacer (reading comprehension) placement exams. ACT/SAT scores are valid for 7 years and the Compass scores are valid for 2 years from date of testing.

**Step 3 ____ Submit test scores.**
Submit COMPASS, SAT, or ACT scores. If you have not taken the COMPASS, SAT or ACT tests, you need to complete the ALEKS (math) and Accuplacer (reading comprehension) placement tests. These tests enable us to place you in the appropriate classes to enhance your success in college.

**Step 4 ____ Meet with an advisor.**
Meet with the College of Technology OTA advisor to finalize your acceptance into ISU College of Technology. To make an appointment, call (208)282-2622 or email elsbtiff@isu.edu

**Phase II: Program Admissions Process  (Deadline is March 15, 2018)**
**Step 5 ____ Complete Observation Hours with one of the following options:**

  **Option 1:** 16 hours of observation in at least 2 different settings (i.e. hospital, nursing home, outpatient, rehab, home health)

  **Option 2:** 8 hours of observation in 1 setting AND take the Intro to OT (PTOT 2209) online course. The Intro to OT course must be completed with a passing grade of “C” or better.

**Step 6 ____ Obtain 2 letters of recommendation**
Step 7 ____ Complete Handwritten Essay

Step 8 ____ Complete online OTA application

Phase III: Selection Process
Once the deadline passes and all applications have been received and scored, up to 20 students will be chosen for the 2018 cohort to start Fall Semester 2018.

The admissions team consists of the OTA program chair and OTA faculty along with the OTA student advisor. Applicants will be ranked based on:

- GPA
- Completion of Prerequisite Courses and respective grades
- Preference Courses completed and respective grades
- Completion of Observation requirements
- (2) Letters of reference
- Content of Written Essay

Once applicants have been ranked, letters of acceptance will go out within 2-4 weeks. Applicants will also be notified if they were not accepted in this cohort and are encouraged to reapply the next year.

Candidates for the 2018 cohort will then 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 (available through ISU Continuing Education)
- HIPAA training (available online through ISU)