

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 for the fall semester. The deadline for applying to the college and all related admission documents is March 9th 2026. You are encouraged to submit your application packet early if it is complete. However, no extra points are awarded if turned in early.

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 is 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: College Admission Process

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 transcripts to Idaho State University.

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

Freshman - 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: test scores are not required for ISU admission, but they are required to be considered for scholarships.*

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.**

Mail directly to:

Idaho State University Admissions

921 S. 8th Ave., Stop 8270 Pocatello, ID 83209

In-state transcripts may be faxed to: (208) 282-4511

*If you do not have college-level math, or your ACT/SAT are lower than the minimum requirements for the OTA program or out-of-date, you may need to take the ALEKS (math) placement exam.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

Step 3 ____ Submit test scores.

Submit SAT, ACT, or ALEKS scores. If you have not taken the SAT or ACT tests, you need to complete the ALEKS (math) placement test. These tests enable us to place you in the appropriate classes to enhance your success in college. ACT and SAT test scores are valid for seven years from the date of testing.

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 ctech@isu.edu

Phase II: Program Admissions Process

Step 5 ____ Complete one of the following options:

OPTION ONE

40 Observational hours: 20 hours in physical disabilities such as inpatient, outpatient rehab, home health, skilled nursing *and* 20 hours in pediatrics, dementia, behavioral health, psychosocial settings

Or OPTION TWO

The successful completion of Introduction to Occupational Therapy (PTOT 2209 with a final grade of "C" or higher) *and* 20 hours of observation. 10 hours must focus on one area within OT, such as pediatrics, while the other 10 hours must focus on a different area, such as geriatrics.

Step 6 ____ Obtain 2 **References**. These forms are on the [OTA application website](#). These should come from someone who knows your character and/or your work ethic. Examples can be faculty/teachers, coaches, bosses, and people who have known you from church or other volunteer or work activities.

Step 7 ____ Complete the essay that is labeled **APPLICANT ESSAY**. Follow the prompt given. The essay provides insight into what you know about OTA as a profession. It will also provide some insight into you as a future practitioner.

Step 8 ____ Complete the application form.

Phase III: Selection Process

Once the deadline passes and all applications have been received and scored, up to 20 students will be chosen for each cohort to start in each Fall Semester. A waitlist is generated also at this time.

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

- Grade point average
- Preference courses taken and the corresponding grade
- Letters of reference
- Essay

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

Candidates for each 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)
- Background check

Updated 10/2018, 11/2019, 1/2021, 11/2021, 9/22, 11/2024