Area of Interest: Health Sciences

**Occupational Therapist Assistant / Physiotherapist Assistant**

Ontario College Diploma
2 Years
Ottawa Campus

**Our Program**

Pursue a career that builds on strengths to advance quality of life.

The two-year Occupational Therapist Assistant/Physiotherapist Assistant Ontario College Diploma program gives you the knowledge and skills to work under an occupational therapist and/or physiotherapist. Occupational therapist assistants and physiotherapist assistants play a vital supporting role in the assessment, planning and implementation of therapeutic care for patients with the goal of achieving functional independence and occupational performance. They help teach clients to cope with limits in movement, daily functioning and activities.

Through classroom theory, lab techniques, group work and practical experience, you prepare to work with patients coping with health limitations. During various clinical placements, you apply theory and knowledge while further developing your skills. With more than 600 hours of clinical placements during the program, you increase your understanding of the field and gain confidence assisting professional therapists in various healthcare facilities.

**Employment**

Graduates may find employment as an assistant to an occupational therapist or physiotherapist.

**Learning Outcomes**

The graduate has reliably demonstrated 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 healthcare providers, and others within the role of therapist assistant.

- Participate in the effective functioning of interprofessional healthcare 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.

- 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.

- Maintain professional competence using strategies, such as critique, reflection, and quality improvement in the assistant’s everyday practice in support of lifelong learning.

- 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
• 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.

• Manage time and prioritize competing demands in collaboration with occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

• Use knowledge and influence responsibly within the assistant’s role to promote the health and well-being of individual clients, communities, and populations.

• Identify and apply discipline-specific practices that contribute to the local and global community through social responsibility, economic commitment and environmental stewardship.

### Program of Study

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level: 01</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENL0073</td>
<td>Interpersonal Communication Skills in Rehabilitation</td>
<td>42.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENL1813S</td>
<td>Communications I</td>
<td>42.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV0002</td>
<td>Environmental Citizenship</td>
<td>42.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLT0238</td>
<td>Rehabilitation and the Healthcare System</td>
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<td>HLT0239</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Concepts Through the Lifespan</td>
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<td>HLT0240</td>
<td>Introduction to Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLT0256</td>
<td>Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology for Health Care</td>
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Choose one from equivalencies:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
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<th>Courses</th>
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<tr>
<td>HLT0241</td>
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<td>HLT0242</td>
<td>PTA Therapeutic Skills: Musculoskeletal</td>
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<td>Fundamentals of the Musculoskeletal System</td>
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<td>HLT0244</td>
<td>Musculoskeletal Conditions</td>
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<td>WKT0006P</td>
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<td>WKT0006S</td>
<td>Seminar I</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLT0245</td>
<td>OTA/PTA Therapeutic Skills: Cardiorespiratory and Complex Conditions</td>
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<td>HLT0246</td>
<td>Cardiorespiratory and Complex Conditions</td>
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<td>HLT0247</td>
<td>Fundamentals of the Cardiorespiratory System</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLT0248</td>
<td>Concepts in Mental Health</td>
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<td>HLT0249</td>
<td>Professional Practice in Rehabilitation</td>
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<td>WKT0007P</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLT0251</td>
<td>OTA Therapeutic Skills: Neurological</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLT0252</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Neurological Structures</td>
<td>40.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLT0253</td>
<td>Communication and Function</td>
<td>30.0</td>
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Fees for the 2019/2020 Academic Year

Tuition and related ancillary fees for this program can be viewed by using the Tuition and Fees Estimator tool at [http://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator](http://www.algonquincollege.com/fee-estimator).

Further information on fees can be found by visiting the Registrar’s Office site at [http://www.algonquincollege.com/ro](http://www.algonquincollege.com/ro).

Fees are subject to change.

Additional program related expenses include:

Books and supplies cost approximately $1,000 per year for the program.

Admission Requirements for the 2020/2021 Academic Year

**College Eligibility**

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent. Applicants with an OSSD showing senior English and/or Mathematics courses at the Basic Level, or with Workplace or Open courses, will be tested to determine their eligibility for admission; OR
- Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate; OR
- General Educational Development (GED) certificate; OR
- Mature Student status (19 years of age or older and without a high school diploma at the start of the program). Eligibility may be determined by academic achievement testing for which a fee of $50 (subject to change) will be charged.

**Program Eligibility**

- English Grade 12 (ENG4C or equivalent).
- Mathematics Grade 12 (MAP4C or equivalent).
- Biology Grade 11 or 12.
- All applicants must complete a health program assessment through the Test Centre, and will be required to pay the current fee of $50 (subject to change). Results from the health program assessment will be utilized to establish minimum eligibility and also ranked, with the highest ranked applicants given priority admission. The health program assessment can only be written once per academic cycle.
- International applicants must provide proof of the subject specific requirements noted above along with proof of either: (IELTS / TOEFL) IELTS-International English Language Testing Service (Academic) Overall band of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 in each band; OR TOEFL-Internet-based (iBT)-overall 80, with a minimum of 20 in each component: Reading 20; Listening 20; Speaking 20; Writing 20.
- Applicants with international transcripts must provide proof of the subject specific requirements noted above and may be required to provide proof of language proficiency.

**International Applicants:** International applicants who meet the program eligibility requirements are required to complete preparatory courses (4-months in duration): Introduction to Canadian Health Studies (ICH5). Students who successfully complete the introduction will then proceed to their original health program of choice. The ICH5 requires applicants to submit an academic IELTS score.

Please click this link for more information:
Police Records Check Documentation:
Though not an admission requirement, applicants must note important information listed below regarding Police Records Check program requirements.

Students must provide the College with a current Police Records Check for Service with the Vulnerable Sector (PRCSVS) prior to the deadline identified by the department and students are responsible for any associated costs. If this documentation is not submitted on time, students may not be placed and registration in the program will be jeopardized. If you register in the program without a clear PRCSVS and as a result are unable to participate in placement, you will not be able to graduate and will be asked to withdraw.

Field Placement Eligibility:
Field placements occur in first and second year of the program.

Hospital and Field Placements/Outreach require Health and Safety, N95 Mask fit, WHMIS and OWHSA training. There are additional costs associated with training that should be anticipated by students which are not covered by tuition fees.

To be eligible for placement, you must submit proof of Standard First Aid certification, CPR level C, PRCSVS, and complete immunizations through ParaMed and pay associated costs. ParaMed services are the third-party provider who collects all field placement documentation for the School of Health and Community Studies.

Students may be expected to travel outside of their immediate area of residency. It is the student`s responsibility to arrange transportation and incur all costs associated with fieldwork placement. As well, there is a potential for evening and/or weekend labs.

Should you require further information, please contact the Program Chair.

Admission Requirements for 2019/2020 Academic Year

College Eligibility

• Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent. Applicants with an OSSD showing senior English and/or Mathematics courses at the Basic Level, or with Workplace or Open courses, will be tested to determine their eligibility for admission; OR

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• Please click this link for more information: [http://www.algonquincollege.com/healthandcommunity/introduction-to-canadian-health-studies](http://www.algonquincollege.com/healthandcommunity/introduction-to-canadian-health-studies).

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**Field Placement Eligibility:**

Field placements occur in first and second year of the program.

Hospital and Field Placements/Outreach require Health and Safety, N95 Mask fit, WHMIS and OWHSA training, and approved Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) training prior to placements. There are additional costs associated with training that should be anticipated by students which are not covered by tuition fees.

To be eligible for placement, you must submit proof of Standard First Aid certification, CPR level C, PRCSVS, and complete immunizations through ParaMed and pay associated costs. ParaMed services are the third-party provider who collects all field placement documentation for the School of Health and Community Studies.

Students may be expected to travel outside of their immediate area of residency. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange transportation and incur all costs associated with fieldwork placement. As well, there is a potential for evening and/or weekend labs.

Should you require further information, please contact the Program Chair.

**Application Information**

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT / PHYSIOTHERAPIST ASSISTANT**

Program Code 1623X01FWO

Applications to full-time day programs must be submitted with official transcripts showing completion of the academic admission requirements through:

ontariocolleges.ca
60 Corporate Court
Guelph, Ontario N1G 5J3
1-888-892-2228

Students currently enrolled in an Ontario secondary school should notify their Guidance Office prior to their online application at [http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/).

Applications for Fall Term and Winter Term admission received by February 1 will be given equal consideration. Applications received after February 1 will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as places are available.

International applicants please visit this link for application process information: [https://algonquincollege.force.com/myACint/](https://algonquincollege.force.com/myACint/).
For further information on the admissions process, contact:

Registrar`s Office
Algonquin College
1385 Woodroffe Ave
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8
Telephone: 613-727-0002
Toll-free: 1-800-565-4723
TTY: 613-727-7766
Fax: 613-727-7632
Email: mailto:AskUs@algonquincollege.com

Additional Information

Programs at Algonquin College are Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). To see the BYOD requirements for your program, please visit: http://www7.algonquincollege.com/byod/.

A current Standard First Aid and CPR Level C certificate is required prior to registration, students cannot attend clinical until this is completed.

As the program and career is physically demanding, accepted applicants must be in good health and submit a Health Assessment Form and an Immunization Form prior to registration. The annual flu vaccine is required for clinical.

For more information, contact Timothy Tosh, Program Coordinator at 613-727-4723 ext. 5002 or mailto:tosht@algonquincollege.com.

Course Descriptions

ENL0073 Interpersonal Communication Skills in Rehabilitation

Communication is an important skill for all members of the healthcare team as this skill is essential for the safe and effective delivery of patient care. Through a combination of lectures, simulation exercises, and learning, students practise verbal and non-verbal communication skills, as well as active listening. Students examine communication within the healthcare setting and gain confidence in communicating appropriately with colleagues, patients and patient families. Special emphasis is placed on patient confidentiality, sensitivity and professionalism.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none

ENL1813S Communications I

Communication remains an essential skill sought by employers, regardless of discipline or field of study. Using a practical, vocation-oriented approach, students focus on meeting the requirements of effective communication. Students practise writing, speaking, reading, listening, locating and documenting information, and using technology to communicate professionally. Students develop and strengthen communication skills that contribute to success in both educational and workplace environments.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none

ENV0002 Environmental Citizenship

Environmental Citizenship is based on the principles of national citizenship, yet it goes beyond political borders to emphasize global environmental rights and responsibilities. An environmental citizen is committed to learning more about the environment and to taking responsible environmental action. Through a combination of interactive activities, assignments and discussions, students learn how they are personally connected with current environmental issues. Students are also encouraged to adopt attitudes and behaviours that foster global environmental responsibility.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none
GED1623 General Education Elective

Students choose one course, from a group of general education electives, which meets one of the following five theme requirements: Arts in Society, Civic Life, Social and Cultural Understanding, Personal Understanding, and Science and Technology.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none

HLT0238 Rehabilitation and the Healthcare System

The role of the rehabilitation professional is evolving to meet the changing needs of the population. The practitioner must understand this role and how it relates to other health professionals within the Canadian healthcare system. Students become familiar with the healthcare system in Canada and the responsibilities at each level of government through lectures. Focus is on the evolution, relevant legislation and current challenges in the system. Class discussion acquaints students with the history of rehabilitation and the principles guiding its practice.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none

HLT0239 Rehabilitation Concepts Through the Lifespan

Rehabilitation can occur at any age and takes on many different forms. Through in-class lectures, presentations and class work, students examine the rehabilitation principles across the lifespan from infancy to end of life. The role of the OTA/PTA in supporting physical, cognitive and social development at each stage of life is central throughout.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none

HLT0240 Introduction to Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy

As an assistant it is important to understand the professions of occupational therapy and physiotherapy, as well as the many aspects of rehabilitation. Through a series of learning activities, students learn the principles of rehabilitation therapy, diversity of roles within the field and the impact of relevant regulatory bodies and professional associations. As well, students explore the role of the OTA/PTA as a member of the healthcare team and the inter-professional relationships with other health professionals.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none

HLT0241 OTA Therapeutic Skills: Musculoskeletal

The rehabilitation of musculoskeletal conditions requires the healthcare professional to not only treat the physical impairment but to also examine its impact on occupational performance. Through a combination of lectures, labs and simulation activities students learn the principles of occupational therapy and how to execute the treatment plan for musculoskeletal disorders. Students also become familiar with various types of assistive devices to promote functional independence in cases where the condition requires a prolonged recovery.

Prerequisite(s): ENL0073 and ENL1813S and HLT0238 and HLT0239 and HLT0240 and HLT0256
Corerequisite(s): HLT0242

HLT0242 PTA Therapeutic Skills: Musculoskeletal

There are many therapeutic interventions that can be applied to patients diagnosed with a musculoskeletal condition. Through practical labs and in-class lectures students gain an understanding of how to rehabilitate musculoskeletal conditions safely and effectively using ROM, strength and modality techniques. Students also become familiar with various mobility and
ambulatory aids and the importance of proper body mechanics when performing lifts and transfers.

Prerequisite(s): ENL0073 and ENL1813S and HLT0238 and HLT0239 and HLT0240 and HLT0256
Corerequisite(s): HLT0241

**HLT0243 Fundamentals of the Musculoskeletal System**

Building on the knowledge of human anatomy gained in the areas of anatomy and physiology, students examine how the musculoskeletal system is used to move the body through different planes of movement. Through a series of lectures and labs, students examine in detail the functional movement of each joint. Particular attention is placed on the lower extremity as a whole and how it relates to the gait cycle.

Prerequisite(s): ENL0073 and ENL1813S and HLT0238 and HLT0239 and HLT0240 and HLT0256
Corerequisite(s): none

**HLT0244 Musculoskeletal Conditions**

Students investigate the musculoskeletal conditions that are commonly seen in the rehabilitation setting. Through a series of in-class lectures and presentations, students systematically examine conditions in each area of the musculoskeletal system and how they can be evaluated. Emphasis is placed on the impact that these conditions present to the individual within the framework of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).

Prerequisite(s): ENL0073 and ENL1813S and HLT0238 and HLT0239 and HLT0240 and HLT0256
Corerequisite(s): none

**HLT0245 OTA/PTA Therapeutic Skills: Cardiorespiratory and Complex Conditions**

In the rehabilitation environment, patients present with multiple dysfunctions including cardiovascular and respiratory conditions. In the theory lectures, students build on the knowledge of the normal functioning of these vital systems and gain an understanding of disease processes. Interventions required to manage patients with these conditions are presented and integrated into the lab practicum where students practice these skills. Students also learn and apply therapeutic skills and activities to improve occupational performance and maximize functional independence.

Prerequisite(s): HLT0241 and HLT0242 and HLT0243 and HLT0244 and PSY5609 and WKT0006
Corerequisite(s): none

**HLT0246 Cardiorespiratory and Complex Conditions**

Students investigate the cardio respiratory and complex conditions seen in the rehabilitation setting. Through a series of in-class lectures and presentations students explore a selection of disabling conditions based on broad diagnostic categories, encompassing cardiac, respiratory and endocrine systems specific to each age group across the lifespan. Emphasis is on the impact that these conditions present to the individual within the framework of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).

Prerequisite(s): HLT0241 and HLT0242 and HLT0243 and HLT0244 and PSY5609 and WKT0006
Corerequisite(s): none

**HLT0247 Fundamentals of the Cardiorespiratory System**

Through a series of lectures, students explore the structure and function of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems with a brief overview of the endocrine and lymphatic systems. Focus is placed on the normal physiological function of these systems. Students use this foundation in developing an understanding of the various disorders that can arise and the potential impact on rehabilitation.

Prerequisite(s): HLT0241 and HLT0242 and HLT0243 and HLT0244 and PSY5609 and WKT0006
Corerequisite(s): none
**HLT0248 Concepts in Mental Health**

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, 20 percent of all Canadians personally experience a mental illness in their lifetime regardless of their age, education, income level or culture. Students become familiar with the mental health system and the characteristics of common psychiatric disorders through in-class lectures. Students also gain an understanding of the supporting role of the OTA/PTA as part of the mental health team.

Prerequisite(s): HLT0241 and HLT0242 and HLT0243 and HLT0244 and PSY5609 and WKT0006

Corequisite(s): none

**HLT0249 Professional Practice in Rehabilitation**

In healthcare, practitioners deal with diversity in culture, values and beliefs that sometimes lead to ethical issues and conflicts. The principles of professional behaviour and appropriate interventions are explored as students examine self-awareness, conflict management, cultural diversity and maintenance of professional boundaries, including privacy and confidentiality. These concepts are integrated with the knowledge and skill necessary for accurate and nonjudgmental documenting of client information. Clinical simulations allow students to integrate knowledge and skills and reflect on the experiences.

Prerequisite(s): HLT0241 and HLT0242 and HLT0243 and HLT0244 and PSY5609 and WKT0006

Corequisite(s): none

**HLT0250 PTA Therapeutic Skills: Neurological**

A neurological disorder can leave patients with both motor and sensory impairments. Through classroom lectures and practical labs students learn the theories of therapeutic interventions and applications with the goal of promoting functional independence in patients with neurological conditions.

Prerequisite(s): HLT0245 and HLT0246 and HLT0247 and HLT0248 and HLT0249 and WKT0007

Corequisite(s): HLT0251

**HLT0251 OTA Therapeutic Skills: Neurological**

In neurological conditions, occupational performance can be achieved through a variety of therapeutic strategies. Students learn these strategies and their appropriate selection and application through hands-on lab work and case presentations.

Prerequisite(s): HLT0245 and HLT0246 and HLT0247 and HLT0248 and HLT0249 and WKT0007

Corequisite(s): HLT0250

**HLT0252 Fundamentals of Neurological Structures**

In order to treat patients with neurological disorders it is important to understand the basic structure and function of the nervous system. Through a series of in-class lectures, students learn the structure and function of the central and peripheral nervous systems and how they relate to different disorders in the human body.

Prerequisite(s): HLT0245 and HLT0246 and HLT0247 and HLT0248 and HLT0249 and WKT0007

Corequisite(s): none

**HLT0253 Communication and Function**

Patients presenting with neurological or sensory impairments often have communication difficulties. It is important that an OTA/PTA is able to provide support in overcoming these barriers. Through in-class lectures, students learn normal, and disordered communication and specific-treatment strategies for effective communication. The laboratory module includes learning how to identify possible swallowing and feeding issues and strategies to assist those with disorders.

Prerequisite(s): HLT0245 and HLT0246 and HLT0247 and HLT0248 and HLT0249 and WKT0007

Corequisite(s): none
HLT0254 Neurological Conditions

Students investigate the common neurological conditions seen in the rehabilitation setting. Through a series of in-class lectures and presentations students investigate a selection of disabling conditions based on broad diagnostic categories and encompassing neurological conditions across the lifespan. Emphasis is on the impact that these conditions present to the individual within the framework of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).

Prerequisite(s): HLT0245 and HLT0246 and HLT0247 and HLT0248 and HLT0249 and WKT0007
Corerequisite(s): none

HLT0256 Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology for Health Care

Students acquire knowledge of the structure and function within the human body. Students use a systematic approach to explore the following systems under normal conditions: integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, respiratory and cardiovascular. Basic sciences underlying physiological concepts are highlighted, while recurrent physiological themes, such as communication, time, and compartmentalization are used to explain many of the functions within the body.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none

PSY5609 Introduction to Psychology

With its applications to behaviour and personality, psychology extends its reach into many aspects of our personal lives. The broad applications of this social science in both an applied and theoretical context are premised on a number of fundamental principles. Students explore research that defines the current boundaries of the discipline and interact with a number of the foundational concepts that resonate throughout daily life and popular culture. Focus is on differing schools of thought in psychology.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none

WKT0006P Clinical Placement I

The introductory fieldwork placement is the student's first exposure to a variety of rehabilitation therapy settings. Placement experiences allow for observation and the discovery of the role of the OTA/PTA. Working alongside healthcare professionals students refine skills in communication and workplace professionalism while continuing to build on knowledge of various rehabilitation conditions.

Prerequisite(s): ENL0073 and ENL1813S and HLT0238 and HLT0239 and HLT0240 and HLT0256 or ENL1813S
Corerequisite(s): none

WKT0006S Seminar I

Gaining work experience in an appropriate setting will help a new graduate find a rewarding career. Students learn the nature and function of field placement, the process of negotiating a field placement contract, the students' roles and responsibilities and the methods to deal with typical problems.

Prerequisite(s): none
Corerequisite(s): none

WKT0007P Clinical Placement II

Practising the skills and knowledge in a rehabilitation setting is essential in the learning process. During placement students apply learned theory and knowledge while further developing skills.
related to musculoskeletal and cardiovascular rehabilitation. Students become familiar with the clinical facility as they demonstrate professionalism and interpersonal skills.

**Prerequisite(s):** none  
**Corequisite(s):** none

**WKT0007S Seminar II**

Students prepare for their second placement experience.

**Prerequisite(s):** none  
**Corequisite(s):** none

**WKT0008P Clinical Placement III**

During the final fieldwork placement, students continue to acquire and refine abilities and professional behaviours as OTA/PTAs. Through these collaborative, practical learning experiences, students increase understanding of the role and gain confidence assisting the professional therapist. Knowledge gained through theory and laboratory activities is integrated in a comprehensive manner in a complex rehabilitation environment.

**Prerequisite(s):** none  
**Corequisite(s):** none

**WKT0008S Seminar III**

Students prepare for third placement experience.

**Prerequisite(s):** none  
**Corequisite(s):** none