Occupational Therapist (OT) Assistants

Occupational therapist assistants and aides are expected to report strong growth over the next decade. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts the group will increase by 41 percent by 2020.

The rapid expansion of occupational therapist assistants and aides is due to increased demand from the aging baby-boom generation, a growing elderly population, and the widening pool of children with developmental disabilities receiving treatment. Further, occupational therapists can use assistants to help reduce their costs.

More than 36,000 occupational therapist assistants and aides practicing nationwide

“One of the greatest advantages of a career as an occupational therapy assistant is the wide variety of opportunities available to graduates. Many occupational therapy assistants choose to help children thrive in the “occupations” of childhood – learning, playing, and growing…(others) works with individuals in their homes, community centers, rehabilitation hospitals, and nursing homes.”

American Occupational Therapy Association

Compensation (U.S. Median Wage)

OT Assistants $47,490

Finding Talent on Monster

Top 10 States

Florida 11%
Texas 9%
Ohio 8%
Massachusetts 7%
Pennsylvania 7%
New York 6%
California 6%
Illinois 4%
North Carolina 4%
Indiana 4%

Top 10 Markets

Boston 6%
New York 6%
Miami 4%
Dallas 3%
Orlando 3%
Los Angeles 3%
Philadelphia 3%
Providence 3%
Pittsburgh 3%
St. Louis 3%

14 American Occupational Therapy Association, “Your Career in Occupational Therapy, Consider Becoming an Occupational Therapy Assistant”
The Skills
The occupational therapist assistant (certified) talent pool lists training/teaching, patient care, nursing, and home care in over 20% of resumes. Common specialties referenced include pediatrics, geriatrics and orthopedics.

Education Level
Sixty-four percent of occupational therapist assistant job seekers have at most an associate’s degree or some college experience.

Management Experience
While some (11 percent) occupational therapist assistants have had experience overseeing others, most (89 percent) do not have managerial experience.

Willingness to Relocate
Thirty-two percent of occupational therapist assistant job seekers are willing to relocate for a job opportunity.

Work Experience
Occupational therapist assistants are primarily at a junior level. Sixty-two percent have less than 5 years of work experience followed by 20 percent with more than 10 years of work experience.

Most Common Searched Terms by Job Seekers:
certified occupational therapist assistant (cota)
pediatric low vision hand in home care school healthcare manager early childhood development pm homecare program coordinator