



Explore a Career as an **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT**

What do Occupational Therapy Assistants do?

Occupational therapy assistants work with occupational therapists to help their clients develop and recover activities of daily living, like getting dressed, driving, and working. Some choose to work with children, helping them with typical childhood activities, including learning, playing, and growing. Others work with students who have learning disabilities, behavioral problems, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, or other disabilities. Occupational therapy assistants also work with adults in their homes, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, and other facilities.

Occupational Therapy Assistants are in demand in Kankakee County!

Kankakee County employment of occupational therapy assistants is expected to increase through 2020. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recognizes the job outlook for this career as growing much faster than average.

Training & Educational Opportunities

Occupational therapy assistants need an associate degree from an accredited occupational therapy assistant program. People interested in becoming an occupational therapy assistant should take high school courses in biology and health education. You will increase your chances of getting into a community college or technical school program by doing volunteer work in a healthcare setting. You will need to pass an exam to become a licensed occupational therapy assistant in the state of Illinois.

As an Occupational Therapy Assistant you will:

- Help clients with rehabilitative activities and exercises outlined in a treatment plan
- Help patients get dressed
- Lift and move patients
- Monitor an individual's activities to make sure they are performed correctly
- Record patients' progress

Occupational Therapy Assistant

Training Providers

The following certified training provider offers programs and certifications to train for a career as an occupational therapy assistant:

- Parkland College
- South Suburban College

Career scholarships may be available if you qualify.



Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire occupational therapy assistants in Kankakee County, including:

- Educational services
- Home healthcare services
- Hospitals
- Nursing care facilities
- Physical and occupational therapy offices

Wages & Openings

Occupational Therapy Assistant Employment Data for Kankakee County

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|---|---------|
| Average Starting Hourly Wage | \$21.02 |
| Average Hourly Wage With Experience | \$39.12 |
| Average Annual Job Openings Kankakee County | ~10 |
| Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro | 123 |

Opportunities

After earning your occupational therapy assistant degree, you will have many opportunities for advancement. Some opportunities include:

- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Therapy Operations Director



Kankakee Workforce Services

www.kcc.edu/wioa

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