

Occupational Therapist & Physiotherapist Assistant, Diploma

An Occupational Therapy Assistant works under the supervision of an occupational therapist to support clients who have limited ability in daily activities due to illness, injury, mental health disorder, aging or developmental disorders. Physiotherapy Assistants have a variety of responsibilities that vary from the work setting they find themselves in. Under the supervision of physiotherapists, they can assist outpatient clients with orthopedic issues, geriatric clients, athletic injury patients or disorders relating to surgery.

What you can be with your Occupational Therapist & Physiotherapist Assistant Diploma:

Chiropractic Assistant #3414.2	Community Disability Service Practitioner #4212	Recreation Therapy Aide #3414.2	Athletic Therapist Assistant #3414
Rehabilitation Assistant #3414.2	Worker's Compensation Consultant	Home Care Aide #3413	Reflexologist #3232

With additional education, I could be a:

Physiotherapist #3142	Kinesiologist #4167.1	Athletic Therapist #3414	Occupational Therapist #3143
Ergonomist #4161.1	Massage Therapist #3235.4	Prosthetist and Orthotist #3129.3	Holistic Medicine Practitioner #3123.3
Occupational Health and Safety Officer #2263			

Potential employers:

Hospitals	Athletic Organizations	Schools	Regional Health Authorities
Private or Public Physiotherapy Clinics	Medical Clinics	Continuing Care Facilities	Government Research Facilities
Home Care Agencies	Worker's Compensation Boards	Insurance Corporations	Universities/Colleges

This career/job listing is only a sample of the possible career options; these are certainly not the only career/job options accessible with this degree/diploma. Some of the careers listed require further education.

For career information, enter the four digit number listed below in the Alberta Learning Information Services Website (www.alis.alberta.ca) or the National Occupational Classification Website (<http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>).

RDC Career Services can help you explore your interests, identify your goals, discuss your career options and job search strategies and discover how to make the most of your education. Email or give us a call to connect with a career counsellor.

RDC Department Information: Occupational Therapist & Physiotherapist Assistant Diploma
rdc.ab.ca/programs/health-sciences

Major Skills Obtained from the Occupational Therapist & Physiotherapist Assistant Diploma Program

- **Reading:** Read short text passages on product label in regard to disposal or biohazards. Read short notes from co-workers, read flyers, brochures and other promotional materials to learn about new products and application techniques. Read referrals from doctors to obtain information about clients' medical problems and recommended treatments. Read textbooks and regulations surrounding proper patient treatment and support.
- **Document Use:** Locate patient data on files and records. Review bookings in calendars to determine upcoming appointments and open time slots. Enter data into a variety of forms. Follow procedures described in diagrams and photograph sequences. Locate data in a variety of tables and schedules, may interpret anatomical diagrams to locate bones, muscle and other structures.
- **Writing:** Write reminders and notes to co-workers regarding patient documentation. Document treatments on patient records. May complete accident and incident reports. May write letters in response to requests for information.
- **Numeracy:** May measure grip strength and range of motion using instruments, such as handgrip dynamometers and goniometers. May measure the weight and height of clients using scales and gauges. Compare test result data, such as grip strength, to normal ranges. Schedule appointments and consider the availability of service providers and equipment, mobility of clients and allowances for cancellations and emergencies. Reconcile day sheets. Calculate inventory requirements.
- **Oral Communication:** Gather information from clients, explain procedures to coach them through exercises and tasks. Exchange information with co-workers and participate in staff meeting to discuss new policies and change to operating procedures.
- **Thinking:** Face clients who are dissatisfied with the progress of their treatments. Encounter service requests from clients that differ from the services suggested by their health care professional. Decide which health care practitioner a client will be assigned, based on client preference and the practitioner's area of specialty. Decide which treatment is considered an emergency. Assess the legibility, accuracy and completeness of forms. Provide client services and support the work of health care professionals. Gather information from clients' forms, speaking with medical professional and interviewing clients and their families. Find information regarding treatment from coworkers, reviewing medical textbooks and searching for resources surrounding new developments.
- **Digital Technology:** Use of specialized equipment such as keratometers and cold lasers to diagnose and treat patients. Use of word processing software, spreadsheets and databases to enter client information and communicate with health care professionals regarding treatment. Use of Internet to research and access training courses for further professional development.
- **Working with Others:** Work independently with clients but under the supervision of Occupational Therapists or Physiotherapists direction. Part of a health care team, these assistants work directly with health care professionals and co-workers to provide support and treatment for their clients.

Professional Associations and Sites of Interest

Therapy Assistant Association of Alberta
<http://thaaa.ca/>

Society of Alberta Occupational Therapists
<http://www.saot.ca/index.php>

Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSA) -
www.hsaa.ca

Alberta Health Services -
www.albertahealthservices.ca

Government of Alberta - <http://alberta.ca/>