

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

**Licensing Authority** Jan Scheffert  
Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Lucas State Office Bldg 5th Fl  
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Des Moines IA 50319-0075  
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**Legal Authority** Code of Iowa, Chapter 148B; Iowa Administrative Code 645, Chapters 205-209

**Job Description** An occupational therapy assistant helps licensed occupational therapists in providing rehabilitative services to patients suffering from mental, physical, emotional, or developmental impairments. They use the rehabilitative activities and exercises that are outlined in the treatment plan devised by the occupational therapist. They also record their observations with regard to the patient's progress for use by the occupational therapist.

**Education & Experience Required** An applicant must complete an occupational therapy assistant program approved by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association with two months of supervised field experience and pass an exam administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

Limited Permit: An applicant who has completed the educational and the experience requirements and is waiting to take the certification examination can apply for a limited permit to practice. The limited permit is valid until the date on which the results of the next qualifying examination are made public.

Foreign-trained: To become eligible to take the licensure exam, internationally-educated occupational therapy assistants must meet NBCOT eligibility requirements and undergo prescreening based on the status of their occupational therapy educational programs.

**Continuing Education** Fifteen hours of continuing education are required biennially for license renewal.

**Examination** Applicants must pass an examination administered by the American Occupational Therapy Certification Board.

**Fees** Application: \$100  
Duration: Two years  
Renewal: \$50

Exam: Arranged by applicant (roughly \$250)

**SOC Code, Title & Avg. Hourly Wage** 31-2011 – Occupational Therapist Assistants (\$15.92)

**Number of Licenses Issued** Total number of licenses active as of December 31,  
2002: 309  
2001: 452

**For Additional Information** Iowa Department of Public Health Web site:  
<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>

American Occupational Therapy Association  
4720 Montgomery LN  
PO Box 31220  
Bethesda MD 20824-1220