Student’s Waitlisted for the Occupational and Physical Therapy Assistant Program
UPDATED March 2020

Important Information:

Students who are wanting to attend the 2 year Occupational and Physical Therapy Assistant program but are either waitlisted or would like to prepare have 2 options:
1. Pre Health Sciences
2. Open Studies

Which is the best option:
It all depends on the student, but in general:

1. **Admissions**: The Pre-Health Sciences reserves 10% of the seats in the OPTA program for its graduates. This is not a guarantee but it helps students get extra chances to get into this extremely popular program

2. **Flexibility**: Online Pre-Health gives you flexibility of time, but open studies gives you flexibility of choice. Pre- Health is 7 courses that are pre-set, and you cannot change, whereas open studies gives you more choice of when and what courses you take.

3. **Cost**: Pre-Health is a full program, so you do have to pay tuition for 7 courses, where in open studies you might not have to take this many courses and will save some money. Taking the year off is the cheapest option but you would be sitting idle for the year.

4. **Program**: If you are 100% certain that the OPTA program is the only program for you, then Pre-Health is the best choice. If you are considering the any other 2 year diplomas at RDC then pre-health also works.

Regardless of which option you choose, both will require dedication, hard work and determination. You should pick the option that is best suited to you and our learning style.

The following pages will give more details on both options.
Pre Health Sciences:
Pre-health is a one-of-a-kind certificate is an opportunity to explore RDC’s different health programs while upgrading missing courses, build a strong knowledge base and receive some advanced course credit in the OPTA program.

- Get a few refresher courses in things like Mathematics and Biology so that you have these skills sharp for the program.
  - These will give you a knowledge base so that you are ready to hit the ground running.
  - If you need to upgrade Biology and Math, Pre-Health is the best option for you.
- Now also being offered 100% online, so now you can work and study at your own pace on your own time. Or you can apply to our on campus program.
- Receive credit for INTP 102 (anatomy and Physiology) and possibly add in KNSS 307- Growth and Development for advanced credit in the OPTA program.
- Use the next year to explore the healthcare system, and learn about the roles and responsibilities of not only OPTA but also learn about different programs and careers in health.
- It’s a full time certificate that is eligible for student loans. It is not as flexible however as taking open studies.
- Last but not least, we have reserved 10% of the seats, in the OPTA program next year, for graduates of this certificate who achieve a Grade Point Average of 3.3, with no course grade below C.

Open Studies:
If you are looking for some choice, open studies gives you a good opportunity. You would be able to take the following that would also count for credit in the OPTA program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses in open studies that can also count for credit in the OPTA program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KNSS 307- Growth and Development</td>
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- Taking this course **DOES NOT GUARANTEE ACCEPTANCE** to the program.
  - We do not give preference to students who have taken this ahead of time *i.e. having this course is not an admissions advantage*

- The course listed on this guide are **NOT MANDATORY** to take **BEFORE** getting into the program at RDC.

- Taking this course listed on this guide reduces the MLA course load but **does not shorten the program**. *i.e. you will not finish the program faster*

- Apart from the course listed on this guide, NO other courses that can be taken in Open Studies that would also count for credit in the program.

- You can always take more classes to further your knowledge and that are interesting to you, but no other courses are given credit in the program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you look at anything other than grades for admission?</td>
<td><strong>We DO NOT</strong> take any other factors (work experience, volunteer work, gender, citizenship, reference letters etc.) into consideration for admissions to the OPTA program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I took courses at another institution; will I get credit for them?</td>
<td><strong>Maybe.</strong> You must apply for a prior learning assessment by emailing <a href="mailto:rpl@rdc.ab.ca">rpl@rdc.ab.ca</a>. You must apply to RDC before we will assess documents. Our Prior learning office will contact you for more information if needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>How can I improve my chances of getting into the program?</td>
<td><strong>Take the pre-health sciences program! Either way you have to Study, ask questions, and attend classes</strong> - you can do this, but you have to be willing to do the work!</td>
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<tr>
<td>When should I apply for the OPTA program?</td>
<td><strong>OCT. 1st to MARCH 1st.</strong> – You should apply ON OCTOBER 1ST. Applications received AFTER MARCH 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; will be automatically waitlisted - you are encouraged to apply early.</td>
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<td>How many people get in off the waitlist? What are my chances? Where am I on the waitlist?</td>
<td>It depends on the year. Most students however find out if they are accepted after April 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;. We can call a student right up until September however.</td>
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</table>
| Where am I on the waitlist? Did you receive my transcripts?            | All this information can be found by contacting our Registrars/admissions office: Email: Admissions
Phone: 403-342-3400                                                                 |
| If I have more questions who can I ask?                                | **School of Health Sciences Advisors** Email: healthsciences@rdc.ab.ca
Office: 1509A                                                                 |