

To articulate the intent of this policy the OTA program is fully committed to the safety of patients, clients, students, faculty, and clinical affiliates. In accordance with federal, state, and local laws, accreditation regulations, and/or organization policies all OTA students, volunteers (those who work in the same capacity as staff), who provide direct care, treatment, and services will be required to complete criminal background checks and drug screens. Students will be subject to criminal background checks and drug screenings prior to attending any clinical affiliation sites in the program, random drug screening during the clinical rotation, and any time throughout the duration of the program.

The criminal background checks and drug screens will be required, approximately **30 days prior** to participating in the clinical component of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program (OTA). Once students receive notification, drug screens must be completed in **24 to 48 hours**. All background checks include verification of all employment history for the last 7 years. Therefore, all employers must be contacted. The information that will be verified are dates of employment, reason for separation, and eligibility for reemployment.

Clinical participation is mandatory to meet degree completion requirements of the OTA program. Although the student has been accepted into the program the clinical affiliates have the right to refuse student placement at their facility. **The program does not guarantee student acceptance at a clinical education site.** It is at the discretion of each facility with which the program has a clinical affiliation agreement, to implement a standard protocol regarding student admittance for educational purposes. Students are required to abide by facility protocols and are responsible for any associated fees. If for any reason, a student is denied acceptance at a clinical facility and is unable to complete the program based on their criminal background status the student will fail the clinical course, be dismissed from the program and become ineligible for re-entry to the program.

It is the responsibility of the student to report any changes in the status of their criminal background history to the OTA Program Director immediately. Should the student become involved in criminal activity that prevents obtainment of certification or licensure after program acceptance, the student will be withdrawn from the program. The program and the university will not modify the curriculum for students who have an unsatisfactory criminal background status.

Please note state and/or federal laws through designated agencies regulate health professions. Each agency sets the specific requirements for granting licensure or certification to practice as a healthcare provider. Most agencies have restrictions on eligibility to sit for credentialing examinations and granting licensure or certification to an individual with a criminal record.

Past or present legal conviction (felony or misdemeanor) or disciplinary actions may impact a graduate's ability to be eligible to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) Exam for the Occupational Therapy Assistant and/or your ability to obtain state licensure. A student who does not have a clear criminal history record is required to meet with the OTA Program Director and/or the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator to discuss the implication of the criminal record on his/her completion of all requirements of the curriculum. Counseling may include referral to the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE) and the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). For an individual who is considering entering or who has already entered an OTA educational program, it is highly recommended that he or she have their criminal history background reviewed by requesting an Early Determination Review. **Please note that there are costs associated with voluntary background reviews.**

- For questions regarding eligibility contact NBCOT: (phone) 301-990-7979 (email) professional.conduct@nbcot.org (website) www.nbcot.org
- For questions regarding Texas state licensure eligibility please contact ECPTOTE: (phone) 512-305-6900 (e-mail) info@ptot.texas.gov (website) <http://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/home>.

If a student receives a positive drug screen result, the following actions may occur:

1. If it is determined the student has breached the Parker University and OTA program Drug Policy the student will be immediately dismissed from the OTA program and possibly from the University.
2. The student may request testing at another facility within 24 hours of notification of a positive drug screen result (*Any additional costs incurred in this process are the sole responsibility of the student*). A second positive drug screen report will result in the programmatic dismissal being upheld. Medication prescribed to the student by a licensed physician is an exception with documentation. (*Refer to the OTA student handbook for additional details*)



Student Attestation

I _____ have read the Parker University OTA Criminal Background Check & Drug Screening Waiver and understand my responsibility in the criminal background and drug screening process. Furthermore, I understand that it is my responsibility to report any changes in the status of my criminal background history to the OTA Program Director immediately. Should I become involved in criminal activity after program acceptance, in which the initial criminal background clearance status becomes compromised, I will be withdrawn from the program. If I refuse to participate in the criminal background check and drug screening or do not complete the drug screen in the allotted timeframe, I will forfeit my place in the OTA program and will be automatically dismissed. I understand that the OTA program and the university will **not** modify the curriculum for students who have an unsatisfactory criminal background status.

Student Print Name

Date

Student Signature

Date