

# SAM

Sam is an occupational therapist and adjunct professor, earning \$100,000 annually.\* Sam works in a shelter for people with mental health and substance use challenges and teaches at a university. Sam supports shelter clients to find purpose through developing skills for social participation, school, work, leisure, volunteering, home maintenance, volunteering, health management, and more. As an adjunct, Sam provides educational instruction to college students in occupational therapy classes. Sam has 10 years of education and work experience in substance use treatment and mental health services.

*Follow Sam on their journey:*



Sam earns a GED and wants to pursue occupational therapy. Sam's brother has a mental health diagnosis and Sam wants to be able to support individuals like him with everyday activities.



Sam enrolls in a community college occupational therapy assistant program to earn an associate's degree.



After graduation, Sam takes the NBCOT exam and becomes a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). Sam is hired by a group home and earns \$50,000 annually.



Helping people is very gratifying for Sam. They decide to pursue further OT education through a dual degree program for a bachelor's in health sciences and a Master's in OT. While in school, Sam works at the group home part-time earning \$30/hr.



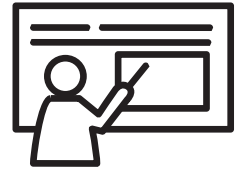
After graduating, Sam passes the NBCOT exam and obtains state licensure to become a registered and Licensed Occupational Therapist (OTR/L).



Next, Sam is hired by a nonprofit that operates shelters and transitional housing for unhoused people. Sam earns \$80,000 annually.



As an OTR, Sam develops therapeutic programming to support clients in developing life skills and social-emotional skills. Sam also supervises other OTRs and OTAs, as well as student interns.



While continuing their full-time job, Sam also becomes an adjunct professor at the local university. Through this part-time position, Sam teaches two courses on occupational therapy in mental health each semester, earning \$22,000 annually. Sam's combined income is just over \$100,000.