



TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENTS

The Ohio State University
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Occupational Therapy Division

Occupational Therapists are medical professionals who are experts in evaluating human learning and performance skills. Occupational Therapists analyze, select, and adapt activities for patients whose ability to cope with daily living and perform tasks necessary to care for themselves or others is compromised by developmental deficiencies, the aging process, environmental deprivation, or from physical or psychological, or social injury or illness.

Occupational Therapists work in a variety of settings with a wide range of individuals of various abilities and ages. The Occupational Therapy Division at The Ohio State University seeks to provide our community with well-prepared entry-level Occupational Therapy generalists who are ready to practice, research, and advocate for special populations and the profession. This program is rigorous and intense and places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled in the program. Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy students must possess certain physical and psychosocial attributes that are essential in providing care for the individuals they serve.

The technical standards set forth in this document by the Occupational Therapy Division establish the essential functional requirements necessary for enrolled students to acquire the knowledge, skills, competencies and values of an entry-level Occupational Therapist.

The following essential functional requirements must be met by all students after they have been accepted into the program. Some standards in the program are developmental in nature and must be met at specific points within the curriculum as new information is presented within the context of specific coursework. Students must possess the physical, mental, and cognitive skills necessary to assimilate this new learning. In the event that a student is unable, or becomes unable to fulfill these technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation, the student can not enroll or remain enrolled in the program.

Occupational Therapy students must be able to:

1. Plan and implement activities and programs to improve sensory and motor functioning at the level of performance normal for the patient's stage of development.
2. Teach skills, behaviors, and attitudes crucial to the patient's independent, productive, and satisfying social functioning.
3. Design, fabricate, apply, and instruct patients in the use of selected orthotic or prosthetic devices and other adaptive equipment which assists the patient to adapt to his or her potential or actual impairment.
4. Analyze, select, and adapt activities to maintain the patient's optimal performance of tasks and to prevent further disability.
5. Complete a comprehensive Occupational Therapy evaluation and conduct treatment in a clinical environment which may include measuring Range of Motion, strength, endurance, muscle tone, pain level, ADL skills, fine motor skills, transfer skills, functional mobility, balance, response to sensation, cognitive status, and home management skills.
6. Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues, including patients from different cultural and social backgrounds and in stressful situations. This includes, but is not limited to the ability to establish rapport with patients and communicate evaluation and treatment information effectively. Students must be able to understand and speak the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice;

7. Demonstrate the ability to record evaluation results, treatment plans, patient notes and outcomes clearly and accurately;
8. Demonstrate the ability to assimilate, analyze, synthesize, integrate information and problem solve to form the basis for their clinical reasoning.
9. Demonstrate the ability to maintain composure and continue to function well with patients who are undergoing periods of stress and may exhibit challenging attitudes or behaviors.
10. Demonstrate the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations.
11. Demonstrate the ability to develop professional values, ethics, appropriate demeanor and rapport that are essential for professional education and quality patient care.

Following acceptance into the Occupational Therapy Program, students are required to verify that they understand and meet these technical standards or that they believe that, with certain accommodations, they can meet the standards. This is accomplished using the *Technical Standards Certification Statement*. For students who believe that they can meet these standards with accommodation, the University's Office for Disability Services will validate their need for accommodation and will work with the Occupational Therapy Division to determine if reasonable accommodation can be made. This determination will take into account whether accommodation would jeopardize clinician/patient safety or undercut an essential element of a course, clinical experience or internship.