



## TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DOCTORATE PROGRAM

The faculty of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences have outlined Technical Standards documents (TSDs) that are unique to professional students and to specific programs within the school. Technical standards are nonacademic criteria for admission and continued program participation. TSDs may include such things as abilities in context (ability to discriminate breath sounds), behaviors in the present (compliance with an established code of conduct), or safety (a direct threat to health and safety). These standards may be achieved with reasonable and appropriate accommodations for otherwise qualified individuals. If you believe that you may need to request reasonable accommodations to meet the standards, or you have questions regarding your ability to meet the technical standards outlined below, inform your program's director of clinical education and contact the Office of Student Life Disability Services (SLDS) <https://slds.osu.edu/>. Any accommodations recommended, such as using an intermediary or other aid, cannot substitute for demonstrating any of the standards below nor replace the student's judgement.

### Program Specific Description

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 following technical standards, in addition to Occupational Therapy Program academic standards, are necessary for admission, progression through the curricular program, and graduation from The Ohio State University. Below are the specific technical standards expected of students enrolled in the Occupational Therapy Program.

### Professional students in the Occupational Therapy Program must:

1. Students must demonstrate the ability to 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. Students must demonstrate the ability to teach skills, behaviors, and attitudes crucial to the patient's independent, productive, and satisfying social functioning.
3. Students must demonstrate the ability to 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. Students must demonstrate the ability to analyze, select, and adapt activities to maintain the patient's optimal performance of tasks and to prevent further disability.
5. Students must demonstrate the ability to administer topical drugs that have been prescribed by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs.
6. Students must be able to 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.
7. Students must 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.
8. Students must demonstrate the ability to record evaluation results, treatment plans, patient notes and outcomes clearly and accurately.
9. Students must demonstrate the ability to assimilate, analyze, synthesize, integrate information and problem solve to form the basis for their clinical reasoning.
10. Students must 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.
11. Students must demonstrate the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations.
12. Students must demonstrate the ability to develop professional values, ethics, appropriate demeanor, and rapport that are essential for professional education and quality patient care.

Students must review and acknowledge that they can consistently meet these technical standards, either with or without accommodations. If at any point in time a matriculated student can no longer meet these technical standards, they should request accommodations through SLDS, consult with their program clinical coordinator/director of clinical education, and complete a new technical standards attestation. Please check **only one** of the boxes below and sign where indicated:

I certify that I have read and understand the Technical Standards criteria for students, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards **without accommodation**. I also understand that if I am unable or become unable to meet these standards, even with accommodation, that I cannot enroll or remain enrolled in the **Occupational Therapy Program**. I also understand that if I am unable or

become unable to meet these standards, I should complete a new technical standards attestation and follow the steps below.

I certify that I have read and understand the Technical Standards criteria for students, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards **with accommodation**. I will contact Office of Student Life Disability Services to have my need for accommodation validated (<https://slds.osu.edu/> or 614-292-3307). I will provide my program clinical coordinator/director of clinical education with the obtaining the approved accommodations from SLDS to determine appropriate accommodation option and complete a new technical standards attestation. I understand that in some cases accommodation might not be possible. I also understand that if I am unable or become unable to meet these technical standards, even with accommodation, I cannot enroll or remain enrolled in the **Occupational Therapy Program**.

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Signature of Student

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Date

Please send your signed version to The Ohio State University Division of Occupational Therapy at the following email address: [otfieldwork@osumc.edu](mailto:otfieldwork@osumc.edu). The form is due May 26, after the student has been accepted into the program.