

Department of Occupational Therapy



Message from our Department Chairperson:

I would like to welcome and thank you for your interest in our Occupational Therapy programs.

Our entry-level Masters degree follows a 33-month program of study which includes many opportunities for experiential learning in service and fieldwork. Our full-time day program begins in June of each year.

This is an exciting time for the profession of Occupational Therapy as the many changes in health care directly influence our profession. These changes create new opportunities to impact the lives of individuals and our communities and to explore practice in very non-traditional arenas. Past AOTA president, Carol Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, stated "It's (Occupational Therapy) a wonderful field for people to combine their altruism with professional knowledge and skills to make a real difference in other's lives." As a faculty we are very passionate about providing you a quality education within a unique Christian environment that encourages whole person care.

We offer information sessions once a month to present information about our MOT program and allow attendees to ask questions. Please call our office for the date/time of upcoming information sessions: (800) 422-4558, option 1 for schools, option 4 for Allied Health, and ask for Occupational Therapy. Our direct number is (909) 558-4628. You may also access information on our LLU website, www.alliedhealth.llu.edu. If you would like assistance as you plan for application, please feel free to contact us!

We look forward to hearing from you and being a part of your professional education.

Sincerely,

Liane Hewitt

Liane Hewitt, DrPH, OTR/L
Department Chairperson

Department of Occupational Therapy



Message from our MOT Program Director:

Thank you for your interest in Loma Linda University's Master of Occupational Therapy program. Our program received a 10-year accreditation status in May 2013 with accolades on our curriculum, community involvement, and commitment to our students. Our faculty have expertise in a wide variety of areas and clinical experiences to create authentic learning experiences for our students. We begin the program with an intense gross anatomy class that provides a foundation that students will build upon as they learn handling skills, transfers, and interventions in orthopedics, neurology, and other populations.

Dedicated to the mission of the university, students are immersed in service-learning experiences throughout the program beginning in the fall quarter. These experiences provide an opportunity to apply information learned in the classroom to meet the needs of our community partners. Students interested in mission trips can join fellow allied health, nursing, and medical students in global mission trips, however, we are also committed to providing mission work to our local communities.

Students have several Level I fieldwork experiences in various settings to learn about occupational therapy and practice documentation, handling skills, and administer assessments. Two 3-month Level II fieldwork experiences give students the opportunity to apply their knowledge as they assume a caseload and demonstrate entry-level practice skills.

Loma Linda University's Masters of Occupational Therapy program is founded in compassion, spirituality, justice, and service. If you have a heart for mission and for serving others, you will find occupational therapy to be a meaningful and fulfilling profession.

We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Heather Javaherian-Dysinger

Heather Javaherian-Dysinger, OTD, OTR/L
MOT Program Director

Occupational Therapy@ Loma Linda University

Loma Linda University is a Seventh-day Adventist educational institution located in inland southern California, approximately 60 miles east of Los Angeles, adjacent to San Bernardino. It is part of the Seventh-day Adventist system of higher education, founded in 1905. Students from all faiths and religions are welcome to apply to our programs.

Accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the North American Division Commission on Accreditation of the Board of Regents of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Loma Linda University is a member of the American Council on Education and the Association of American Colleges. Our Occupational Therapy programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), 4720 Montgomery Lane, Bethesda, MD 20824, (800) 729-2682, website www.aota.org. In May 2013, the MOT program received a 10-year accreditation through 2023-2024.

Loma Linda University Department of Occupational Therapy employs 7 fulltime faculty and 4 part time faculty and utilizes 12 contract OT and other professionals. Our two administrative staff support both faculty and students with their warm smiles. As of summer quarter 2013, there were 153 students enrolled in MOT program.

The certifying body for occupational therapy practitioners is the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), 12 S. Summit Avenue, Ste 100, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-4150, (301) 990-7979, website www.nbcot.org. When the graduate applies to write the certification examination with the NBCOT, s/he will be asked to answer questions related to the topic of felonies. Felony convictions may affect a candidate's ability to sit for the national certification examination or attain state licensure.

Many states require licensure in order to practice. Graduates practicing in the state of California must acquire licensure from the California Board of Occupational Therapy. For further information, contact CBOT at 2005 Evergreen Street, Ste 2050, Sacramento, CA 95815-3831; telephone (916) 263-2294, website www.bot.ca.gov.

Department of Occupational Therapy Mission Statement:

Transforming lives through occupation, service, and advocacy.

Loma Linda University's Department of Occupational Therapy mission aims to graduate compassionate service-oriented leaders who demonstrate excellence and integrity to advance practice and facilitate occupational engagement among individuals, communities, and societies. Graduates will demonstrate the skills of critical, creative, and practical thinking to wholistically promote health and occupational justice. The engaged educational process will transform students in compassionate practitioners, advocates, and visionaries who utilize research and evidence-based practice to meet the needs of our changing society.



Department of Occupational Therapy Professional Philosophy

The Department of Occupational Therapy envisions occupational therapy's service to humanity as rooted in justice, advocacy, and whole-person care. This service orientation manifests through collaboratively providing person-centered health care for under-served as well as diverse populations to address the complex needs of human life and social change.

We envision the practice of occupational therapy as designed to provide all people the possibility of engaging in a healthy lifestyle to experience a satisfying quality of life through occupational participation. Humans are complex, occupational beings. Occupations are the meaningful activities that occupy our time, inform our identity, and provide our lives with meaning and purpose. "All individuals have an innate need and right to engage in meaningful occupations throughout their lives. Participation in these occupations influences development, health and well-being across the lifespan. As such, participation in meaningful occupation is a determinant of health" (AOTA, 2011, p. 1).

As we participate in occupations we engage in a “dynamic process of interaction with the physical, social, temporal, cultural, psychological, spiritual, and virtual environments. Through active engagement within the internal and external environments, humans evolve, change, and adapt” (AOTA, 2007). The therapeutic use of occupation involves holistically addressing the mind, body, and spirit to empower and transform lives, communities, and societies.

Occupational therapy is:

The therapeutic use of everyday life activities (occupations) with individuals or groups for the purpose of participation in roles and situations in home, school, workplace, community, and other settings. Occupational therapy services are provided for the purpose of promoting health and wellness and to those who have or are at risk for developing an illness, injury, disease, disorder, condition, impairment, disability, activity limitation, or participation restriction. Occupational therapy addresses the physical, cognitive, psychosocial, sensory, and other aspects of performance in a variety of contexts to support engagement in everyday life activities that affect health, well-being, and quality of life. (AOTA, 2004b).

Our scope of practice involves evaluation, intervention, and outcomes with individuals, organizations, and populations across the lifespan in the areas of:

- Activities of daily living
- Education
- Instrumental activities of daily living
- Rest and sleep
- Leisure
- Play
- Social Participation
- Work

The Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (2008) describes our domain and process. Occupational therapists practice in both traditional and emerging areas. Traditional areas of practice are rooted in the profession's history and include settings that commonly employ occupational therapy practitioners. Emerging areas are those settings that do not typically employ occupational therapy practitioners yet involve needs that relate directly to our scope of practice. We identify emerging areas of practice through our new interests of national association, changes in the health care system, as well as global changes in society. At Loma Linda University our emerging practice areas include, but are not limited to:

- Aging
- At-risk youth
- Domestic violence settings
- Lifestyle Medicine
- Obesity
- Trauma exposed children

Where to find Occupational Therapy

A large number of Occupational Therapy jobs are in hospitals and rehabilitation facilities. Other major employers are public and private educational services, and nursing care facilities, home healthcare services, outpatient care centers, offices of physicians, individual and family services, community care facilities for the elderly, and government agencies.

A small number of occupational therapists are self-employed in private practice. These practitioners see clients referred by physicians or other health professionals or provide contract or consulting services to nursing care facilities, schools, adult daycare programs, home healthcare agencies, and manufacturing companies.

Education and Courses

The Department of Occupational Therapy has a history of community service and continually strives to achieve Mission-Focused Learning in our curriculum founded in community-engaged scholarship. Through service-learning, students will take the skills

they are taught in the classroom and apply them in an authentic context thus engaging their learning. We have developed service-learning courses which will align with the practice area emphasized that quarter (i.e. orthopedic, neurological, behavioral health, infant children & youth, general medicine, and professional practice). Our department currently collaborates with several community partners such as Option House, Inc., Inspire for Girls, and Altus Academy, for service-learning experiences. We believe this will show a commitment and consistency with our partners. Students will have specific learning objectives for their service-learning experiences, where they will explore and apply faith, service, and whole-person care while working with clients and communities. Structured reflection will nurture personal and professional growth resulting in transformative learning.

Occupational therapy coursework includes physical, biological, and behavioral sciences and the application of occupational therapy theory and skills. Completion of supervised fieldwork is also required. This graduate program requires students to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA each quarter.

What makes a good Therapist?

Occupational therapists need patience and strong interpersonal skills to inspire trust and respect in their clients. Ingenuity and imagination in adapting activities to individual needs are assets. Those working within the community must be able to adapt to a variety of settings.

Job outlook

Occupational Therapy is a vital and growing profession. Forbes lists Occupational Therapy as one of the most recession-proof jobs in America. According to the report, the demand for occupational therapy professionals will continue to rise with a 10-year forecast of a 25% job growth rate. Earnings vary by setting, experience, and position. The national median salary for Occupational Therapists is \$70,000.

Why is our MOT program unique?

We are often asked what sets us apart from other programs and universities. Below are what our graduates feel are the strengths of the LLU OT programs:

- LLU promotes balance and healthful living
- Emphasis on service-learning
- State-of-the-art health and wellness facility offered to all students and faculty
- Local and global outreach opportunities integrating mission-focused learning
- Small class sizes
- Mentoring students to prepare them for the national certification examination
- Fieldwork experiences locally and nationally
- Balance of hands-on learning with theoretical approaches
- Research experience
- Weekly chapel programs

Within the Department of Occupational Therapy, faculty members play an active role in the education of students as evidenced by small class sizes with frequent one-on-one interaction. Faculty members mentor students throughout the program to prepare them for the national certification examination and future employment.

The Department of Occupational Therapy at Loma Linda University offers its students a rich learning environment for developing professional skills. We believe that professional education is a journey of the mind, body, and spirit that involves growth and development in self-discovery, clinical reasoning, and the use of self. Through foundational, practice and professional learning, we provide professional competency in a supportive environment and promote lifelong learning. The Occupational Therapy program at our university has received a 10 year accreditation for its excellence in education.



Prerequisites for Admission For entry to 2016-2017 school year

Students must enter with a previous B.A. or B.S. in other majors. Upon completion of the program, students are then eligible to sit for the NBCOT national certification exam for OT.

The prerequisites for admission are listed below. All prerequisites must be taken from regionally accredited colleges or universities, and must be completed no later than December prior to the June start date of our program.

Completed	Need	Prerequisites
		Proof of completion of B.A. or B.S. degree in another field from a regionally accredited college or University, with a minimum GPA of 3.00
		Human Anatomy with lab (courses taken older than 5 years will not be accepted)
		Human Physiology, with lab (courses taken older than 5 years will not be accepted)
		Statistics (courses taken older than 5 years will not be accepted)
		Human Lifespan Development
		Medical Terminology

Completed	Need	Observation/Volunteer Experience:
		40 hours of observation in occupational therapy settings. Documentation of observation must be submitted prior to admission consideration. The observation evaluation form can be found at this link: http://www.llu.edu/allied-health/sahp/ot/admissions.page .

Grades of C- and below are not acceptable for transfer to LLU.
We do not require the GRE.

Selection of Applicants

The Department of Occupational Therapy is committed to equal education opportunities for men and women of all races and does not discriminate on the basis of disability, sex, race, color or national origin in its education and admissions policies, financial affairs, student life, and services.

Selection is based on recommendation letters, GPA, work/volunteer experience/community service in an Occupational Therapy department, and personal video. We accept 50 students per year. A minimum 3.00 GPA is required for both cumulative GPA, and the prerequisite science GPA.

Loma Linda University was established to provide education in a distinctive Christian environment, and its students are expected to have adopted Christian ethical standards as a basis for their conduct. In harmony with the University's emphasis on health and practices of its supporting church, students are encouraged to practice healthy lifestyle habits.

Procedure for Application

The Occupational Therapy program at Loma Linda University uses the **Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS)**. MOT applicants must first apply to OTCAS; please visit <https://portal.otcas.org/> to create your OTCAS account.

Application Period: The OTCAS portal will open on July 17. The priority deadline is October 1, and the application portal will close on November 1.

Transcripts:

All official transcripts must be sent directly to OTCAS, from your college/university. Transcripts will not be accepted from you personally.

Address:

Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS)

PO Box 9120

Watertown, MA 02471

Phone: 617-612-2860

Email: otcasinfo@otcas.org

Website: <http://www.otcas.org/>

International Transcripts:

- International transcripts must be evaluated by an agency approved by Loma Linda University. See the list of approved agencies at this link: <http://www.llu.edu/central/apply/intltrans.page%20>.
- Request the official transcript evaluation to be sent directly to OTCAS, an official transcript does not need to be sent to OTCAS.
- Request an official transcript of your international institution to be sent directly to Loma Linda University.

Where to Submit Your Application:

- OTCAS must receive the application, references, and transcripts no later than November 1. Once your application is complete, OTCAS will verify your documents before releasing them to Loma Linda University. All transcripts must be received before verification can be completed; the verification process could take between 4 – 6 weeks. Please note that Loma Linda University cannot access unverified applications. It is your responsibility to confirm your status as *verified* with OTCAS.
- For any questions about the receipt, processing, and verification of your application, please contact OTCAS Customer Service at 617-612-2860, or otcasinfo@otcas.org.
- For other questions regarding our prerequisites or LLU application process, please contact the Loma Linda University Department of Occupational Therapy at 909-558-4628, or studyot@llu.edu.

Supplemental documents to be submitted to OTCAS:

LLU Verification of Observation Experiences forms, and Reaction to Observation Experiences. Please submit forms for each OT setting that you observed.

If you took a medical terminology course that offered a certificate of completion, and was not for college credit, request the agency to send a copy of the certificate to the Department of Occupational Therapy (we will accept the agency's email with the attached certificate or link to the certificate). Please request our approval of an online medical terminology course before taking it.

Please note:

OTCAS does not accept paper references. Letters of recommendation are submitted electronically through the OTCAS system. If a recommender has given you a non-electronic letter of recommendation, please submit it directly to the Department of Occupational Therapy at Loma Linda University. (See address below.)

Secondary Loma Linda University Application:

Once your OTCAS application is verified, your documents will be released to Loma Linda University. You will receive an email from Admissions Processing of Loma Linda University, with the link to the secondary LLU application that you must complete and submit within 2 weeks. There is no additional fee for the LLU secondary application. **You are not an official LLU applicant until your secondary application has been submitted.**

Supplemental documents to LLU:

Supplemental documents you wish to submit, such as resumé, or non-electronic letters of recommendation, may be submitted to the Department of Occupational Therapy.

Our mailing address:

Department of Occupational Therapy
Nichol Hall, A901
Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, CA 92350

Fax: 909-558-0239

Email: studyot@llu.edu

Processing of applications depends on the early receipt of transcripts, recommendations, and observation evaluations. Faculty review will begin as soon as applications are complete.

Selection is based on a two part process. The first level involves a screening of recommendation letters, GPA, observation reactions, service, application essays, and volunteer experience in Occupational Therapy. Applications making it to the second level will be asked to make a 5 minute video responding to specific prompts provided by the Department. The Applicant will be invited via email to continue to this second level; directions and the prompts will be emailed to the applicant. Applicants must post their video within the specified timeframe given in the email in order to be considered.

Notice of acceptance will be sent to your email, and an official letter will also be mailed to your address. Upon receipt of the notice of acceptance, you must respond within 15 days to confirm or decline your acceptance. A \$200 deposit is required and will be applied to your first quarter of tuition and is non-refundable.

Application Deadlines:

Apply between August 1 – November 1, for June start date. Priority deadline is October 1.

We encourage all applicants to begin the admissions process by submitting their online application to OTCAS as early as possible once the application portal is open. Waiting or holding off for the program deadlines may decrease their chances of acceptance into certain programs and delay admissions decisions.

Admissions elements, i.e. transcripts, recommendations, observation hours must be submitted at the time of application.

The International applicant admissions process may take additional time due to the evaluation requirements, transcript requests and processing.

Observation Experiences

Part of our application process is to have the prospective student observe Occupational Therapy Practitioners prior to beginning our program. We require a **minimum of 40 hours** but recommend the prospective student get as much experience as possible before beginning our OT programs. This is the link to find the observation evaluation forms: <http://www.llu.edu/allied-health/sahp/forms.page>.

Prospective students are encouraged to contact local facilities that provide Occupational Therapy and request, through the OT department or volunteer department, observation hours. Some facilities may have guidelines for observation such as volunteer classes, dress codes, etc. Be sure to ask what will be expected of you before you begin your observations. We also suggest observing at various facilities or in different practice areas. This will give you a diverse look at the profession.

Prospective students who already work in the profession or with Occupational Therapists may use this experience toward their hours.

Community service

Prospective OT students are also encouraged to get involved within their own community. Volunteering that benefits and enhances the everyday living of others will be beneficial to you. Be sure to document your participation and have the coordinator validate your time and efforts.



Tuition Cost

The total credits for the MOT program is 131 quarter credits. Tuition cost is \$697 per credit, based on current tuition rate for 2015-2016. Enrollment fees are \$768 per quarter, based on current rate for 2015-2016. Tuition cost is subject to change each academic year. (March 1st is the yearly deadline for Student Financial Aid) Be sure to apply for aid even if you have not been officially accepted. It is better to have aid lined up then not

Educational Funding

We realize that gaining an education can be costly. We encourage our students to actively pursue scholarships, grants and loans from various sources. There is scholarship money available for those who qualify and apply. Loma Linda has a limited number of scholarships available to our students and they are granted annually, based on need.

On the web: Keywords you can search under are Occupational Therapy, Allied Health, Occupational Therapists, etc. Be sure to check with your state OT associations to see if they offer scholarships for Occupational Therapy.

WICHE is a program for students who live in states which have no OT programs. This is a great scholarship for those who qualify.

On Campus Housing



Loma Linda University offers residential housing for students in Lindsay Hall and Daniells Residence Complex. Both halls are on campus and within short walking distance of most resources, such as the library, laboratory facilities, the bookstore, exercise facilities (Drayson Center), dental and medical facilities, and classrooms.

Students under the age of 21 years who are in undergraduate programs, are required to live on campus, unless they are married or living with their parents or a close relative. A student who desires to live off campus, but who does not meet the necessary qualifications, must file a petition with the dean of student affairs. This should be done well in advance of registration to allow the student adequate time to plan. For a petition form, stop by the office of student affairs or call (909) 558-4510.

Kate Lindsay Hall for Undergraduate and Graduate Women Kate Lindsay Hall is located at the northern edge of the campus with easy access to Nichol Hall. Telephone: (909) 558-4561 Fax: (909) 558-0461 Email: klhinfo@llu.edu. For rates, please go to: <http://www.llu.edu/llu/housing/>. Contact them early if you plan to reside in Lindsay Hall.

A.G. Daniells Residence for men and women (women must be 21 or older) the residence hall is located in the center of the campus with easy access to all campus facilities. It is within walking distance to Nichol Hall. Telephone: (909) 558-4562 Fax: (909) 558-0220 Email: drcinfo@llu.edu. For rates, please go to: <http://www.llu.edu/llu/housing/>. Daniells residence hall is usually at full capacity. Contact them early if you wish to reside in Daniells Hall. (New addition of Daniells Hall shown)



You can find apartments and roommate availability by looking in the "LLU Trading Post" available online at www.llu.edu, or in the local newspaper *The San Bernardino Sun*. www.sbsun.com.

Getting around

Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from campus as well as fieldwork facilities. Students residing in residence halls are within walking distance to OT classes both in Nichol Hall and classes that are held on our lower campus. Student parking lots are available but students must register their cars with the Parking and Traffic office. There is a quarterly fee for the parking permit, which is included in the quarterly enrollment fees. A fair amount of walking is required by the Occupational Therapy student from class to class around campus.

Fieldwork Experience

MOT Students are required to do two fieldwork experiences of 12 weeks each, which are included within the 33-month program. The student is asked to make selections of fieldwork sites, and the academic fieldwork coordinator then contacts the facility to make the arrangements. Confirmation of fieldwork is subject to availability at the requested facilities, and may also be subject to cancellation by the facility. All didactic work from first and second years must be completed before fieldwork assignments will be made.

A student's ability to complete fieldwork education may depend upon satisfactory documentation of such things as drug screening, HIV testing, fingerprinting, CPR certification, and a background check, as required by the fieldwork facility. The facility will generate which requirements need to be completed prior to beginning the fieldwork. Fees incurred from any of these requirements will be the responsibility of the student. Fieldwork schedule (days and hours of work) is subject to the facility schedule and the student must adhere to the regulations of the facility. The student is responsible for board, lodging, and transportation and relocation expenses to fieldwork sites.

MOT Class schedules format

The department provides class schedules each quarter. Labs may be divided into two or more sessions, and students are assigned to a lab group. Beginning the winter quarter of the first year, students will be assigned to fieldwork level 1 experience during the last two weeks of the quarter. The academic fieldwork coordinator will meet with students individually and set up all fieldwork experiences.

The MOT program is a full time professional program, and classes are taught during the day, on weekdays. Evening or weekend classes are an exception. Students may opt to work part time or on a flexible schedule, however, full time work is not recommended during the program.

Student activities

Loma Linda University recognizes and encourages the need for students to participate in social activities in order to contribute to the development of the whole person. Student activities at LLU are largely the result of collaborative endeavors between University schools, programs, and departments and student leaders and their organizations. The Drayson center is a 100,000 square foot state-of-the-art fitness/wellness facility, which is located on Stewart Street, east of Anderson Street. It serves as the

focal point for out-of-class life at Loma Linda University. Students are encouraged to use the facilities while achieving their academics here at LLU. The school also promotes social activities and events between disciplines within our school on a quarterly basis. Most events are during the lunch hour and bring students from all allied health programs together.

Campus life

Loma Linda University has a deep commitment to respecting the rich diversity of its student body. It views respect and sensitivity for all people, regardless of their culture and ethnicity, as a part of true Christianity.



Two distinctive features of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which are part of the Loma Linda experience, become evident to first-time students. The first is the concept of Sabbath rest which reminds us of God as Creator. Adventists realize this in part by celebrating Saturday as the Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. During these hours students will find that University offices, laboratories, libraries, study halls, and recreation facilities are closed to give time for physical and spiritual renewal and worship.

A second distinctive feature worth noting is an emphasis on health and wholeness. Students will be able to exercise in our recreation and wellness center, a health and fitness complex which received a national award for excellence in utility and design. The cafeterias on campus feature well-prepared vegetarian meals. The University holds that a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free lifestyle are essential for achieving the goal of "wholeness."

Spiritual life

Loma Linda University accepts students from all religions and faiths. We recognize that students come from many different religious backgrounds. This University has a tradition of religious liberty, and it highly respects students' religious values. We look upon the various perspectives of each spiritually committed student as enriching to our campus and educational environment.

The University is part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Educational System which is one of the largest private educational systems in the world. Worship experiences represent a critical dimension of the educational experience at Loma Linda University and are available to the student many times throughout the week. Besides regular Friday evening and Saturday "Sabbath" services, many class, school, club, community outreach and University activities include a component of worship and praise to God.

In keeping with the commitment to our mission, students have special requirements, such as chapel attendance each Wednesday morning. The chapel programs provide a variety of opportunities to integrate faith and learning. Undergraduates who reside in the residence halls are also expected to attend worships in the residence halls each week.

Classes in religion are part of the core curriculum in each of the University's schools and programs. These classes include a study of the Bible, ethics, clinical ministry (which concentrates on ways to understand and meet the spiritual needs of patients in a manner that is non-invasive and individually appropriate), and a variety of other issues related to the student's field of study and personal spiritual journey.

Advising

You are welcome to attend information sessions held by the department. Campus tours may be arranged by contacting Enrollment Management at 909-558-8161 or tours@llu.edu. The Occupational Therapy Department is not open on weekends.

Please call (909) 558-4628 for information about upcoming information sessions.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS



As a student of the Occupational Therapy program, certain essential functions are conducive to success. The Professional Proficiency Profile of a student is as follows:

- A. Upon acceptance into the Occupational Therapy program, the applicant should have:
 - 1. Completed at least 40 hours of community service or OT Observation.
 - 2. Effective time management including meeting classroom & appointment times, completion of assigned tasks, recognition and acceptance of others' stresses; and priorities.
 - 3. Ability to monitor own behavior appropriately, including grooming, dress, non-verbal behavior, patterns of communication, and team interaction.
 - 4. English language proficiency- written and verbal.
- B. The nature of Occupational Therapy practice demands that the applicant develop:
 - 1. Ability to make critical decisions in stressful situations and intervene effectively.
 - 2. Awareness and observation of safety precautions and the ability to assess potentially dangerous situations.
 - 3. Respect for the confidential nature of client information.
 - 4. Sensitivity to non-verbal behavior and environmental clues.
 - 5. Ability to use feedback and develop adaptive strategies.
 - 6. Ability to work cooperatively in a team situation with other professionals.
 - 7. Ability to participate and negotiate in group decision-making.
 - 8. Ability to apply theory and concepts to treatment needs in a professional manner.
 - 9. Sensitivity to diversity in ethnics, gender, capabilities, generational and ideological perspectives.
- C. The responsibilities of the Occupational Therapy student require the following neurophysiological abilities:
 - 1. Physical Demands (Includes classrooms, labs, fieldwork sites, and community-based programs)
 - a. Transportation to and around classrooms and labs in Nichol Hall and lower campus, library, chapel, and lunch facilities.
 - b. On an average day, be present in classroom for at least 3 hours with two 10-minute breaks.
 - c. At fieldwork site, be able to stand up to 7 hours in an average day.
 - d. Write reports legibly.
 - e. Communicate effectively in classroom for questions, dialogue, and presentations; coordinate verbal and manual instructions with technique demonstrations.
 - f. Communicate appropriately with instructors.
 - g. Read homework assignments.
 - h. Collect information from library sources.
 - i. Submit typed homework/research papers.
 - j. Make oral presentations in class.
 - k. Use computers for online searches, research, email, and corresponding with fellow students and instructors.
 - l. Use tools such as, but not limited to: goniometer, blood pressure cuff and stethoscope, measuring tape, scissors, x-acto knife, heatgun.
 - m. Attend fieldtrips to different facilities.
 - n. Participate in and perform assessments such as range of motion (ROM), muscle testing, goniometry, patient management techniques, CPR, monitor vitals, wheelchair and ergonomic measurements.
 - o. Participate in and lead a group activity in therapeutic media, group dynamics.
 - p. Squat, crawl, bend, stoop, kneel, climb steps/stairs, reach above shoulders.
 - q. Lift, move, carry up to 50 lbs, or demonstrate ability to instruct others in proper procedure.
 - r. Demonstrate safe static/dynamic standing balance.

- s. Guard, transfer patients who may need physical assistance.
- t. Demonstrate fine/gross motor coordination.
- u. Be able to respond to a timer, alarm or call for help.

2. Positive Attributes for a successful fieldwork experience

- a. Show interest in the specialty and the profession
- b. Take responsibility for your attitude
- c. Be creative in solving problems
- d. Care about consumer's issues
- e. Remember safety first
- f. Listen respectfully and actively
- g. Seek feedback
- h. Accept constructive criticism
- i. Manage time
- j. Submit professional work on time
- k. Avoid excuses
- l. Use supervision time effectively
- m. Initiate, initiate, initiate
- n. Take on new projects
- o. Seek additional information



D. The responsibilities of the Occupational Therapy student require the following higher level cognitive and professional abilities in the classroom and fieldwork facility:

- 1. Manage time effectively within academic and professional practice.
- 2. Adjust priorities according to the needs of the program, department, and peers.
- 3. Comply with the institution's policies and procedures.
- 4. Adhere to universal precaution procedures.
- 5. Participate actively and responsibly in the overall program.
- 6. Adjust to change and modify own behavior according to the demands of the situation.
- 7. Assume responsibility for professional behavior and growth.
- 8. Demonstrate good problem solving skills.
- 9. Demonstrate good safety awareness around tools, sharp objects, combustibles, and heated elements.
- 10. Communicate in a mature professional manner with peers, instructors, and other health care professionals, both verbally and in writing.
- 11. Follow appropriate channels of communication and authority for obtaining information and answers to questions.
- 12. Demonstrating coping skills by recognizing and managing own stress or problems, function appropriately under stress.
- 13. Manage personal affairs in a manner that does not interfere with professional responsibilities.
- 14. Initiate communication in a timely manner with faculty or fieldwork educators.
- 15. Communicate information clearly, accurately and concisely in writing, for target audience.
- 16. Interact with a client-centered focus and demonstrate ability to establish rapport with clients.
- 17. Analyze, synthesize, and interpret information.
- 18. Abide by professional code of ethics and standards of practice.

