

**LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
PROFESSIONAL PROFILE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

The Department of Occupational Therapy has a responsibility to society to matriculate and graduate the best possible occupational therapy practitioners. The program requires that the acquisition of didactic knowledge be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of skills and professional attitudes and behavior. As a student of the Occupational Therapy program, certain essential functions are conducive to success, which are as follows:

- A. The responsibilities of the Occupational Therapy student require the following cognitive and professional abilities in the classroom and fieldwork facility:
1. Exhibit proficiency of the English language in order to communicate information clearly, accurately, and concisely whether verbally or in writing.
 2. Manage time effectively within academic and professional practice, such as but not limited to timeliness to classes and appointments, completion of assigned tasks, and meeting specified deadlines.
 3. Adjust priorities according to the needs of the program, department, and peers.
 4. Participate actively and responsibly in the overall program and in fieldwork assignments.
 5. Demonstrate appropriate professionalism in grooming and attire, non-verbal behavior, patterns of communication, team interaction, and stressful situations.
 6. Manage personal affairs and demonstrate coping skills in a manner that does not interfere with professional responsibilities.
 7. Follow appropriate channels of communication and authority for obtaining information and answers to questions.
 8. Interact in a mature professional manner with peers, instructors, and other health care professionals, both verbally and in writing.
 9. Assume responsibility for professional behavior and growth.
 10. Demonstrate good problem solving skills.
 11. Demonstrate ability to analyze, synthesize, and interpret information.
 12. Demonstrate good safety awareness around tools, sharp objects, combustibles, and heated elements.
 13. Understand and adhere to universal precaution procedures.
 14. Interact and establish rapport with clients, and maintain client-centered focus.
 15. Comply with the institution's policies and procedures.
 16. Adhere to the professional code of ethics and standards of practice¹.
 17. Abide by the core values of Loma Linda University².
- B. The nature of Occupational Therapy practice demands that the student demonstrates:
1. Professional behaviors and interpersonal skills
 2. Ability to make critical decisions in stressful situations and intervene effectively.
 3. Awareness and observation of safety precautions and the ability to assess potentially dangerous situations.
 4. Respect for confidential nature of client information.
 5. Sensitivity to non-verbal behavior and environmental clues.
 6. Ability to use feedback and develop adaptive strategies.
 7. Ability to work cooperatively in a team situation with other professionals.
 8. Ability to participate and negotiate in group decision-making.

9. Ability to apply theory and concepts to treatment needs in an appropriate professional manner.
10. 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 (classrooms, labs, fieldwork sites, and community-based programs)
 - a. Navigate to and around classrooms and labs in Nichol Hall and lower campus, library, chapel, and lunch facilities.
 - b. On an average day, participate in classes and labs up to 6 hours (with 10 minute breaks and lunch breaks).
 - c. At assigned fieldwork experiences, be able to perform tasks of occupational therapy for the workday/hours as specified by the facility.
 - d. Submit legible answers in quizzes and exams.
 - e. Communicate effectively in classroom for questions, dialogue, and presentations; coordinate verbal and manual instructions with technique demonstration.
 - f. Communicate appropriately with instructors.
 - g. Read homework assignments.
 - h. Collect information from sources such as libraries, books, journals, internet.
 - i. Submit typed assignments, reports, and 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, electric skillet.
 - m. Attend fieldtrips to different facilities.
 - n. Participate in and perform assessments of range of motion (ROM), muscle testing, patient management techniques, CPR, monitor vitals, wheelchair and ergonomic measurements.
 - o. Participate in and lead group activities in classes and labs.
 - p. Squat, crawl, bend, stoop, kneel, climb steps/stairs, reach above shoulders.
 - q. Lift, move, carry up to 50 lbs.
 - r. Demonstrate safe static/dynamic standing balance.
 - s. Guard or 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 initiation and interest
 - b. Take responsibility for your attitude and professional behavior
 - c. Be creative in solving problems
 - d. Care about consumer's issues
 - e. Remember and apply safety precautions
 - f. Listen and observe
 - g. Seek feedback from supervisors
 - h. Accept constructive criticism
 - i. Manage time appropriately
 - j. Submit professional work in timely manner

- k. Avoid excuses
- l. Use supervision time effectively
- m. Take on new projects when requested
- n. Seek additional resources and information
- o. Communicate in timely manner with academic fieldwork coordinator regarding any fieldwork concerns

¹Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics (2015). American Occupational Therapy Association. www.aota.org.

²Core Values of Loma Linda University. University Catalog 2018-2019, and Department of Occupational Therapy Student Handbook.