

Cincinnati State College
Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
Essential Functions for an Occupational Therapy Assistant Student

The following is a list of essential functions that a student must be capable of performing while enrolled in the Occupational Therapy Program. Students who have concerns about their ability to perform any of these functions should contact the Program Chair. Students may be entitled to reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act through the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Students should remember that the role of the OTA in most settings is the direct provision of services to clients requiring safe and effective contact with them.

The OTA Program values diversity of thinking and ability/function. **Any student who, after reasonable accommodations, cannot perform the *Essential Functions for an Occupational Therapy Assistant* may not be able to continue in the OTA program.** The following are indicators required with or without accommodations to participate in the OTA Program:

MOTOR SKILLS

A student must be able to:

- Sit in class for up to 3 hours at a time, without a break.
- Move with adequate agility and speed to ensure client safety.
- Walk, balance, and have adequate strength to facilitate the mobility of a client who may or may not use equipment, while preventing injury to client and self. (This includes but is not limited to assisting with transfers.)
- Demonstrate the sensorimotor skills, mobility, and general endurance necessary to effectively and safely complete all learning tasks, contribute to the occupational therapy evaluation process, and implement intervention techniques in the academic and fieldwork environments.

OBSERVATIONAL & SENSORY SKILLS

A student must be able to:

- Use visual, auditory, and tactile senses to observe clients and collect and interpret data.
- Read and understand client charts, professional literature, and notes from clients, physicians and other health professionals.
- Respond to warning sounds and calls for help.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

A student must be able to:

- Communicate effectively in English in verbal and written formats with faculty, peers, clients, families and other health professionals.
- Report clearly and legibly through appropriate documentation.
- Use professional terminology correctly and accurately interpret its meaning to others.
- Self-advocate for their own needs without the assistance of others.

INTELLECTUAL & CONCEPTUAL SKILLS

A student must be able to:

- Meet class standards for successful course completion, including test taking with a minimum exam average of 75 or higher.
- Be committed to independent and self-directed learning throughout the program.
- Acquire, demonstrate and apply the knowledge and skills of occupational therapy principles and practice, including minimum expectations for lab practical exams.

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTITUDES

A student must be able to:

- Recognize and respond appropriately to individuals of all ages, genders and races, and from all socio-economic, religious and cultural backgrounds.
- Cope with stress effectively.
- Recognize and respond appropriately to potentially hazardous situations.
- Demonstrate the physical and emotional capacity to work a 40-hour week while on clinical affiliation.
- Behave in an ethically sound, competent, compassionate and professional manner in the classroom and in the clinic.
- Abide by the *Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice*, and policies and procedures of the college, the program and the fieldwork sites.
- Modify one's own behavior/performance in response to feedback from instructors, fieldwork educators, and peers to achieve the learning objectives and the responsibilities of the program and fieldwork sites.

All incoming students must read and sign that they understand these minimum qualifications to perform the job of an Occupational Therapy Assistant.