



Occupational Therapy Program Technical Standards

Technical Standards

The Occupational Therapy Program at College of Saint Mary has a responsibility to the public to ensure that graduates are prepared to become competent entry-level professionals. In order to fulfill this obligation, students must safely and proficiently exhibit the specific technical standards outlined in this document.

The technical standards allow the student to be knowledgeable about expected areas of performance during coursework, community experiences, and fieldwork and to determine whether they may need accommodations due to a disabling condition. Students must be able to meet these technical standards at admission and throughout the student's progression in the program.

All students must demonstrate the following abilities and skills, **with or without reasonable accommodation** throughout the duration of the occupational therapy program. The definition of a reasonable accommodation is any change in the environment or in the method of activity completion that enables an individual with a disability to participate as fully as possible in the academic program unless doing so would pose an undue hardship. An accommodation may consist of modification of policies, practices, and procedures or the provision of auxiliary aids for completion of the task. Students must not pose a threat to the safety or well-being of therapy recipients, other students, staff, or themselves. *Students should be aware that fieldwork sites may not be able to offer the same reasonable accommodations that are made available by College of Saint Mary's OT didactic program.*

Physical and Motor Skills

The Occupational Therapy Student must

- Possess adequate strength, equilibrium, endurance, fine motor skills, and movement in order to be able to provide direct occupational therapy treatment and emergency treatment to individuals in practice during coursework, in community experiences, and at fieldwork sites. Examples of direct occupational therapy treatments include, but are not limited to, transferring individuals to and from wheelchairs, fabricating orthoses, handling tools and materials associated with a variety of activities, and assisting patients in activities of daily living.
- Tolerate a variety of physical postures and transitions, such as leaning, bending, kneeling, standing and sitting for prolonged times, and getting up from the ground. This may include the ability to perform moderately taxing physical work, often requiring prolonged sitting or standing or lifting significant weight while transitioning.
- Ability to move quickly in an emergency situation to ensure safety of self and therapy recipients. For example, in emergencies such as fire and tornado or emergency treatments reasonably required of occupational therapists such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and application of pressure to stop bleeding (basic first aid).



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Cognitive and Judgment Skills

The Occupational Therapy Students must

- Be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize data concerning patients, and develop an appropriate occupational therapy plan in a timely and professional manner.
- Obtain and process information from lectures, experiential learning activities, audiovisual materials, electronic learning platforms, community experiences, and written materials.
- Take essay and/or multiple choice tests and complete papers in either written or computerized formats.
- Possess adequate oral, written, and technological communication skills to complete educational activities in a professional manner.
- Utilize electronic learning platforms in most classes (and possibility fieldwork documentation) and must possess the ability to negotiate an electronic environment.
- Process feedback from faculty and clinical educators with mature acceptance.
- Recognize, label, and categorize information to draw conclusions.
- Question, analyze, and judge results of conclusions.
- Demonstrate judgment in the classroom, laboratory, and fieldwork settings which shows the ability to make mature and effective decisions in appropriate situations.
- Exhibit appropriate professional judgment under stressful and/or emergency conditions, evolving demands, or a distracting environment.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

The Occupational Therapy Students must

- Be able to demonstrate effective verbal, non-verbal, written, and receptive communication skills with all members of the health care or educational team.
- Assimilate information from written sources (texts, journals, medical or school records, etc.).
- Communicate in a timely manner and in a way that is appropriate to the situation and audience. This includes presenting information in a manner that is easily understood by a variety of audiences.
- Independently complete assignments, tests, and professional documentation in an appropriate format, and timely manner.
- Elicit information from instructors, peers, therapy recipients, family members, and supervisors. This includes noting and responding to factual information provided by others, as well as, the subtler cues of mood, temperament, and social responses.
- Follow verbal and written instructions in order to complete assignments and evaluations.
- Communicate with others accurately, sensitively, and concisely in oral and written formats.

Observational and Sensory Skills

The Occupational Therapy Students must

- Be able to observe demonstrations in the classroom, in laboratory settings, in community experiences, and while on fieldwork affiliation.



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- Be able to gather information through observation to include non-verbal communication and performance of functional tasks both from a distance or in near proximity.
- Present with normal or corrected visual ability sufficient for patient observation and assessment to ensure safety and accurate measurement.
- Ability to obtain information from written documentation, videotaped data, graphic images, and measuring devices accurately and within a reasonable amount of time.
- Ability to sense therapy recipient's physical and/or emotional status through touch and movement.

Professional Identity Skills

The Occupational Therapy Students must

- Possess the emotional health required for full utilization of intellectual abilities, the exercise of ethical judgment, the prompt completion of responsibilities and tasks, and adequate attention to tasks in order to facilitate learning.
- Have the ability to develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with therapy recipients, family members, and staff for effective occupational therapy service delivery.
- Demonstrate professional behaviors, such as timeliness and regular attendance.
- Exhibit tolerance for a wide variety of encounters and environments that may be stressful, tedious, emotionally taxing, and subject to rapid and unpredictable change, consistent with the rapidly changing health care system. For example, taking initiative, being resourceful, and being flexible when things may be uncertain.
- Demonstrate respect for diversity, including but not limited to socio-cultural, socio-economic, spiritual, and lifestyle choices.
- Identify sources of stress and utilize effective coping strategies to function successfully under stress.
- Practice reasonable and accurate awareness of oneself in the role of occupational therapist.
- Present realistic assessment of one's capabilities and limitations.

Request for Accommodation

A request for accommodation or modification will not affect a student's status in the occupational therapy program. The occupational therapy department may require additional documentation, information, and will follow up with the student to discuss the specifics of the request and the appropriate plan of action if a student requests accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to work with the *CSM ADA Coordinator* to request reasonable accommodations. The ADA coordinator will work with the student to determine what, if any, reasonable accommodations can be made and will notify faculty on a need to know basis with the student's consent. If there is any change in medical status during the student's academic career a medical release may be required to attend fieldwork.



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Signature of Understanding

By signing below, I attest to the fact that I have reviewed the above information and understand the expectations of me as a student in the OT Program.

Printed Name:

Signature:

Date: