

Occupational Therapy Program Technical Standards

The OTD Program at College of Saint Mary strives to prepare entry-level competent professionals. To fulfill this obligation, students must safely and proficiently exhibit the specific technical standards outlined in this document. Technical standards enable students to understand expected areas of performance during coursework, community experiences, and clinical education rotations, and to determine whether they may need accommodations due to a disabling condition. All students must be able to meet these technical standards at admission and throughout the progression of the program, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Knowledge Acquisition & Application

- Learn and apply foundational and practice knowledge from a variety of delivery methods and sources
- Recognize, acknowledge, define, analyze, synthesize, and apply information using sound judgment and problem-solving skills
- Notice, respond to, and adjust to dynamic situations as they occur
- Plan, sequence, and coordinate tasks

Communication & Collaboration

- Communicate effectively and respectfully with a variety of audiences through verbal, non-verbal, written, and receptive communication skills
- Respect varying viewpoints and respond to feedback using professional language across all interactions
- Produce written and verbal communication in a clear, concise, timely, and accurate manner
- Apply basic technological skills in educational programs
- Verbal and nonverbal communication may occur through spoken language, writing, digital formats, with augmentative devices, or through other means

Professional & Ethical Conduct

- Initiate, maintain, and conclude social interactions appropriately
- Demonstrate ethical behavior, respect for others, reliability, and integrity
- Adapt behavior based on feedback from others and learned experiences
- Self-initiate actions to meet personal and educational needs
- Identify and reflect accurately on personal strengths and needs while respecting those of others
- Demonstrate consistent and timely management of educational responsibilities
- Follow published policies and procedures

Functional Performance & Motor Coordination

- Safely engage in or direct tasks that involve positioning, movement, and/or material handling. 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.
- Move and transport objects of varying sizes and weights

- Safely navigate within a variety of environments, including responding to emergency situations involving self or others
- Tolerate a variety of positions and transitions within differing environments

Health & Safety

- Engage in practices that prioritize the safety and well-being of self and others
- Notice, respond to, and adjust to unsafe situations as they occur
- Adhere to infection control standards and universal precautions

Summary Statement for Program

All qualified students must be able to perform the technical standards of the College of Saint Mary occupational therapy program, with or without reasonable accommodations. These Technical Standards are inclusive of diverse abilities and are grounded in the values of equity, access, and professional excellence.

Statement on Access and Inclusion

The College of Saint Mary OTD program is committed to providing equitable access to education for all qualified students in accordance with the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. In addition, the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment ensures that individuals, including students with disabilities, are not denied equal protection under the law.

Requests for Accommodations

Students who disclose a disability and request reasonable accommodation(s) will be supported through reasonable, effective, individualized, and timely accommodations that do not fundamentally alter the program or create an undue burden. All accommodation requests will be processed through the ADA Coordinator to discuss circumstances that may impact their ability to meet the program's technical standards. To be considered for accommodations, students are required to provide supporting documentation of their disability from a qualified evaluator, as determined by the ADA Coordinator. Reasonable accommodations are defined as modifications or supports that enable students with documented disabilities to participate fully in their education and training without altering essential competencies. Accommodations are considered reasonable when they provide equal access and opportunity without compromising academic integrity, altering fundamental program requirements, or imposing undue hardship on the institution. Accommodations may include adjustments to policies, practices, or procedures, or the provision of auxiliary aids to assist with task completion. However, students must not pose a threat to the safety or well-being of clients, peers, faculty, staff, or themselves in the clinical or academic environment. A request for accommodation or modification will not affect a student's status in the Occupational Therapy Program.

While College of Saint Mary's OTD program strives to meet accommodation needs, students should note that clinical education sites may not be able to provide the same accommodations available in the didactic portion of the program. Information about approved accommodations may be shared with course faculty or CSM staff as needed. Students are expected to adhere to the processes outlined by the ADA Coordinator. If there is any change in medical status during the student's academic career, the OT department will require a medical release to attend clinical education rotations.