



Department of Occupational Therapy

Essential Functions for Occupational Therapy Students

All students pursuing a degree in the Occupational Therapy Program at the University of Scranton must be able to perform the clinical as well as academic requirements that apply to this program, including those standards established by the *Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)*. Success in academic work, laboratory work and fieldwork placements is essential.

In order to achieve entry-level ACOTE standards, all Occupational Therapy students must be competent to work in every major area of occupational therapy practice including pediatrics, mental health and physical disabilities throughout the lifespan.

The University of Scranton is committed to the education of all qualified individuals, including persons with disabilities who, with or without reasonable accommodation, are capable of performing the essential functions of the educational program in which they are enrolled and the profession they pursue. The student should also be aware that the facilities that accept our students for fieldwork may or may not be able to provide the same accommodations that are given in the classroom.

The University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as well as state and local requirements regarding students and applicants with disabilities. No otherwise qualified and competent individual with a disability shall be denied access to or participation in services, program, and activities solely on the basis of the disability. A student with a documented disability, however, will need to be able to perform all essential functions with or without reasonable accommodation.

When a student's ability to perform is compromised, the student must demonstrate alternative means and/or abilities to perform the essential functions described below.

It is important that each student reads each standard carefully. By signing the attached Certification, the student is indicating that s/he has read and understands these standards. The Standards will be reviewed as needed with students throughout the Program.

Standards for Essential Functions for Occupational Therapy Education at the University of Scranton

- 1) Cognitive/Critical Thinking Skills. Students must demonstrate the ability to execute the following skills in a **timely/immediate** manner:
 - a) Problem solve creatively
 - b) Analyze, synthesize and interpret information
 - c) Make safe and appropriate decisions, including when under stressful situations
 - d) Understand and demonstrate safety procedures
 - e) Acknowledge limitations of knowledge or performance ability
 - f) Seek assistance and mentoring as needed
 - g) Interpret, follow, and carry out written and verbal instructions
 - h) Perform basic mathematical skills

- 2) Sensory Demands. Students must have adequate:
 - a) Visual abilities: near and far vision, peripheral vision, color vision and depth perception
 - b) Hearing acuity
 - c) Tactile sensation: temperature, pressure, and texture perception
 - d) Balance perception

- 3) Physical Demands. Students must have adequate:
 - a) Mobility: position changes such as bending, reaching, squatting, kneeling, crawling and sitting on floors and maintaining balance
 - b) Strength for:
 - i) Transferring, transporting and positioning patients safely
 - ii) Carrying and preparing therapeutic equipment
 - iii) Standing and sitting endurance depending on requirements of the setting
 - iv) General physical endurance for a full work day (8 to 10 hours)
 - c) Fine motor/dexterity for:
 - i) Manipulation necessary for therapeutic activities
 - ii) Handwriting
 - iii) Administering occupational therapy evaluations
 - d) Awareness of one's medical issues and the potential impact on performance

- 4) Environmental Demands. Students must function in environments in which they may encounter:
 - a) Pathogens

- b) Bodily fluids
 - c) Working with mechanical equipment
 - d) Fumes, odors, chemicals
 - e) Noise
 - f) Confined spaces
 - g) Unsanitary conditions
- 5) Communication. Students must have the ability to:
- a) Use the English language in speech and writing
 - b) Demonstrate proficiency in professional terminology
 - c) Communicate effectively with faculty, patients, families, supervisors and other healthcare team members
 - d) Recognize, respond to and use appropriate non-verbal communication
 - e) Produce written work legibly, accurately, and in a timely manner
 - f) Ask questions or seek direction from appropriate persons
- 6) Emotional. Students must be able to:
- a) Accept responsibility for one's own actions
 - b) Be sensitive to the emotions of others
 - c) Respond to feedback in a professional manner
 - d) Adapt to unpredictable situations
 - e) Be aware of one's emotional health and mental wellness and the potential impact on performance
- 7) Behavioral and Social Abilities. Students must be able to **respectfully**:
- a) Work with individuals and families of all religions, sexual orientation, race, and/or age without bias
 - b) Work with individuals who have mental, physical and cognitive disabilities
 - c) Collaborate in a team environment
 - d) Interact with other healthcare professionals
- 8) Professional Behaviors as applied to classroom and clinical settings, which include:
- a) Positive attitude: interested, engaged, open to new experiences
 - b) Confidentiality (HIPAA)
 - c) Professionalism: punctuality, appropriate dress, prepared to work

- d) Preparation for fieldwork: review previously learned material, initiate research of conditions or concepts encountered
- e) Adherence to all policies in the Occupational Therapy Student Manual and policies in all course syllabi
- f) Adherence to the University Academic Policies and Regulations
- g) Adherence to clinical site-specific policies
- h) Adherence to AOTA professional standards and Code of Ethics

Student Accessibility Services

The University of Scranton Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE), located in the Loyola Science Center, 5th Floor, (570 941-4038) is available to assist students with disabilities in determining and accessing reasonable accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to meet with a staff member of CTLE and provide documentation of his/her disability and discuss and determine what reasonable accommodations are available. In addition to classroom learning, clinical learning occurs throughout the program and involves considerations (such as patient safety and clinical facilities) that are not present for classroom accommodations. For this reason, any applicant or student who seeks accommodations prior to or immediately after enrolling in the Occupational Therapy Program must also request an assessment of the types of reasonable accommodations needed and available for the clinical training component of the program.

(Signature required on Acknowledgements of Receipt of Student Manual and Certification form)

Occupational Therapy Program Essential Functions Certification

I _____ certify that I have read and understand the Standards for Essential Functions for the Occupational Therapy Program. I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards, with or without reasonable accommodation(s). Further, I understand that should I need accommodations(s) due to a disability, it is my responsibility to meet with a member of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence to discuss and determine what reasonable accommodation(s) are available.

Student's signature

Date

Print Name