

Essential Functions/Standards for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Student

The following standards pertain to particular cognitive, motor, behavioral and social skills that are associated with the educational process of the RutgersOTA Program. Students are expected to demonstrate and apply these standards in interactions with classmates, colleagues, academic faculty, fieldwork educators and potential clients regardless of the person's race, color, creed, gender, or life experiences or challenges.

Observational Standards:

- A. Practice occupational therapy assistant skills and techniques under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapy assistant or a licensed occupational therapist, consistent with client status and desired goals, within given time constraints:
 - a) Gather and report client data.
 - b) Assess function in a safe, reliable, and efficient manner (for e.g. self-care skills, mobility and transfers).
 - c) Assist with the development of intervention plans.
- B. Attend and participate in didactic and fieldwork education and training on and off campus including traveling to a variety of fieldwork facilities.
- C. Demonstrate the use of accepted techniques accurately and safely when using equipment and materials of the profession

Communication Standards:

- A. Demonstrate effective, professional oral and written communication in the English language.

Intellectual/Conceptual Standards:

- A. Perform all required oral and written examinations, assignments, projects, and/or demonstrations.

Motor Skill Standards:

- A. Participate in laboratory activities that require hands-on contact with classmates and instructors in various stages of moderate undress for clinical training.
- B. Participate in physical activity involving lifting, bending, moving, and supporting others.
- C. Utilize hand and mechanical tools safely and effectively.

Behavioral and Social Standards:

- A. Maintain a current CPR certification and demonstrate the ability to perform CPR.
- B. Communicate with clients using empathetic and supportive responses.
- C. Develop and exhibit professional, ethical demeanor in didactic and fieldwork environments including the ability to:
 - a) Participate in the process of self-evaluation and goal development.
 - b) Give and receive constructive feedback and adjust or modify behavior and responses according to the constructive feedback.
 - c) Collaborate with others on projects and assignments.
 - d) Comply with policies and procedures of fieldwork facility including regarding work hours, safety, patient confidentiality, and infection control.
 - e) Adapt to the stresses of an intensive training program in preparation for the

- f) demands of the fieldwork experience (for example, heavy academic schedule, fast paced fieldwork setting, managing multiple clients and tasks simultaneously and efficiently, working with persons experiencing distress, trauma or functional limitations, working with clients and /or their families or identified supporters who are coping with trauma, illness and disability, or working with people who are in end stages of life).

D. The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program uses web-enhance and web-based design. The technology related competencies required include:

- a) The ability to perform basic operations of the computer
- b) The ability to use software applications such as Word and Power Point
- c) The ability to connect, access, and browse the internet using a high speed connection
- d) The ability to use on-line communication tools including e-mail
- e) Software installation for security and virus protection