PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

The OTA Program's philosophy is based on the basic tenets of the profession, and describes beliefs about human beings and how they learn.

- As the human being develops, there is continual interaction between the person and the environment which constantly produces changes and reaction in both the person and the environment, and impacts occupational performance.

- As this interaction with the environment continues, the person acquires skills, values and habits which affect mastery of the environment so that unique attributes of strength or weakness develop.

- This innate pattern of human occupation follows a developmental sequence which guides and influences growth and development. This maturational process allows for individual uniqueness as the stage of development influences occupation; the engagement in occupation affects the environment; and the environment produces significance to the individual. As new roles are assumed, new performance skills, practice patterns and interests are developed.

- Participation in occupation, an essential function of health in human beings, occurs in a variety of contexts, including (not limited to) family, cultural groups, and government. Each of which provides goals and supports that simultaneously encourage and constrain the individual. Yet, the individual must meet their own needs while interacting with those around them.

- A person's drive to occupational competency may be altered by challenges to physical and/or mental health, aging, or socio-economic conditions. The role of the occupational therapist is to provide intervention that enhances engagement in occupations of choice to the greatest level of independence possible. OT is also concerned with preventing the interruption of occupation for individuals at risk and maintaining maximal, self-directed, occupational participation in individuals affected by chronic health conditions.

- Occupational Therapy is a unique, dynamic profession that assists people in adapting to their current physical and/or mental performance level, or new environment. Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants do this through occupational modification, adaptation and/or compensatory strategies, to address needs of individuals, groups and communities within the demands of established value systems and role requirements with an appropriate balance of self-care, work and leisure activity.

- Integral to the practice of occupational therapy is the utilization of evidence and technology to support interventions and practice. All practitioners have a responsibility to participate in the development of knowledge through scholarly activity as part of ongoing professional development.

The NSCC Catalog states:

The purpose of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at NSCC is to prepare competent assistant level personnel to work under the supervision of registered therapists in developing, maintaining, or restoring adaptive skills in people whose abilities to engage in desired occupations is hampered by environmental restrictions and/or challenges to their physical or psychological health.