

Functional Requirements for Program Participation

The role of an Occupational Therapy Assistant is both rewarding and demanding. The following essential functions are required of all students who enroll in the Nashville State Occupational Therapy Assistant Program.

Motor

- Independently move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces
- Participate in transfers of patients (children to adult) from a variety of heights and surfaces
- Guard and assist patients with functional mobility
- Be able to physically manage self so as not to be a danger to others
- Trunk control adequate for independent balance and function
- No muscle spasms that consistently affect movement or stability
- Manipulation skills adequate to make notations, participate in clinic maintenance, adjust equipment, assist in patient/client movement, etc.
- Perform CPR
- Travel to and from academic and clinical sites
- Physically participate in an active, 8–10 hour school/work day, consistently.

Communication Skills

- Use verbal, non-verbal, and written communication to effectively explain and/or demonstrate tasks and techniques to others
- Communicate effectively in English with patients, families, and other healthcare providers, both verbally and in written form
- Effectively adapt communication for the intended audience
- Speak with enough volume to be reasonably heard by the intended audience
- Perceive, understand, and appropriately act on non-verbal communication, such as changes in mood, activity, facial expressions, and postures
- Assume the role of an effective member of a healthcare team

- Function effectively under supervision, including collaboration as well as effectively receiving and providing feedback
- Interact and establish rapport with individuals and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds

Problem Solving/Critical Thinking

- Function effectively under stress
- Respond appropriately to emergencies
- Use sound judgment to adhere to infection control and safety procedures
- Demonstrate problem-solving skills that reflect consideration of multiple forms of information: written, verbal, observation, etc. Must be able to reason, measure, calculate, prioritize and synthesize information
- Address problems or questions to the appropriate person at the appropriate time
- Consistently follow policies and procedures required by clinical and academic settings, governmental regulations, and requirements of reimbursement sources
- Demonstrate the capacity to consistently, effectively, and efficiently plan, organize, and perform job duties within limited time frames according to current industry standards

Academic Ability

- Read and understand information from textbooks, online resources, and other materials
- Synthesize information effectively to be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills through written work, tests, and demonstrated performance: Students should be able to synthesize this information from a variety of formats. These formats include but are not limited to text, lecture, video/computer, and demonstration.
- Data collection from a variety of sources and interpretation of materials that include, but are not limited to text, notes, online resources, observation, and clinical records
- Pay attention, without prompting, to teachers, guest speakers, and other classmates during verbal presentations
- Effectively use a computer and computer programs. These include, but are not limited to email, PowerPoint, search engines, up/downloading of documents, YouTube, and other online resource sites.

Sensory Capability

- Visually observe with enough acuity (in a variety of lighting conditions) to participate in lab activities, lectures, and clinical experiences
- Read small print information—such as that can be found on medical equipment
- Hear sufficiently to perceive the normal tone of voice to follow directions, participate in conversations, answer phones and intercoms
- Assess and treat all assigned clients, including palpation of the client
- Monitor vital signs
- Auditory, visual, and tactile abilities sufficient to assess patient status and perform treatments
- Perform responsibilities while in close proximity or in physical contact with others

Professional Behaviors

- Emotional health and stability sufficient to complete complex patient care responsibilities within an allotted time
- Flexibility to function and remain calm under stressful conditions, including emergency situations, taxing academic, and clinical workloads
- Consistently demonstrate compassion, empathy, tact, honesty, responsibility, integrity, and strong work ethic
- Follow safety precautions
- Perform tasks and interventions within competency level and seek assistance and training when additional knowledge or competency skills are required
- Actively seek and participate in continuing professional education opportunities in order to maintain and improve knowledge and competence
- Utilize evidence and OT theories, models, and frames of reference to provide the most effective interventions for clients and patients
- Independently track and complete multiple tasks, meeting deadlines and priorities as set by self and others
- Effectively interact with diverse populations and personalities
- Document and report activities accurately according to the requirements of the setting as well as external regulations, policies or procedures, and professional ethics

