

**Nashville State Community College
Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
Course Policies**

General Course Discussions

Learning the practice of occupational therapy means that students must learn about a variety of mental and physical health conditions that can affect occupational performance across the lifespan. Faculty members may call upon students to voluntarily share experiences as they relate to readings and discussion. At no point is a student required to share personal information; students disclose at their personal discretion. Students may find that course material, class discussions, and fieldwork client interactions remind them of both positive and negative personal experiences. It is important that the student, as s/he prepares to become a healthcare practitioner, learn to separate personal experiences from professional responsibilities. To that end, students should continue to use, or develop, strategies to maintain productive physical and mental health throughout the program. OTA Program faculty are available to discuss ideas for personal health promotion strategies upon student request.

On Campus Class Expectations

Students are expected to come to class prepared for active participation and to demonstrate professional behaviors.

This includes:

- reading all assigned materials prior to class
- assignments ready to be submitted at the beginning of the class period
- all books and other supplies prepared before the beginning of the class session.
- All power points and other class information printed before class is scheduled to start
- Use of mobile electronic devices will be set to silent or vibration mode and use will be limited to lecture/lab related materials or instructor approved class work.
 - Students will inform instructor if they are expecting a call, or need to check phone/text/email periodically in case of emergency.
 - Students will not text, access internet, social media, or email during lecture/lab sessions unless instructor approves for in-class work
 - Failure to comply with the above may result in temporary confiscation of the device, request to leave the classroom with unexcused absence, and/or lowered grade (instructor discretion)
- students dressed in appropriate attire for the class session
 - hats removed
 - gum disposed of
 - clothing that would be appropriate in the OT treatment setting
 - Appropriate undergarments
 - Shirts that allow movement without exposing/drawing

attention to the chest area, and that do not ride up when arms are raised.

- Pants/shorts that allow movement without exposing underwear
- Closed toe shoes, preferably athletic shoes
- No excessive jewelry
- Nails trimmed and neat
- Tattoos effectively covered
- No piercings that would interfere with communication, safety, patient care or that could detract from a professional/therapeutic relationship
- Specific dress is required for FW experiences, labs, and for some course activities. Please see course syllabus, schedule, and/or instructor for information.

Online Class Expectations

Students are expected to actively participate in online coursework.

This includes:

- Reviewing all material in a timely manner
- Submitting all assignments on time or early
- Scheduling time each day to review online course material, and to review the calendar regarding upcoming assignments and tests
- Observe “netiquette” in all online interactions
- Ask for instructor guidance or feedback in a timely manner, using complete sentences and correct grammar.
- When logging on to virtual class, students must have their camera on and sound muted.
- Students must be sitting in an upright position during virtual class
- Dress code applies to virtual sessions(refer to on campus class expectations)
- Students must be logged onto virtual class and ready to start class at scheduled start time. Students must notify instructor via email if they are having technical issues. If a student is late to a virtual zoom session and does not contact the instructor, the student will be given an unexcused tardy for that class.
- If a student loses connection during virtual session:
 1. Text instructor
 2. Wait 5 minutes.
 3. Try to log back into session
 4. If student is unsuccessful at logging back in, text instructor again for further instruction
- If the instructor loses connection during virtual session:
 1. Do not leave class.
 2. The instructor will text a designated student stating that they have lost connection and give students instruction on next steps
- If the system loses connection during virtual session:
 1. Instructor will text designated student stating system has lost connection and instruction for next steps

Attendance

Students are expected to attend and be on time for all classes, labs and Fieldwork experiences. The Instructors have observed that student's ability to follow attendance policies often predicts academic and Fieldwork performance.

In order to facilitate the best performance from each student, Instructors will

- Require that all students communicate via text/voicemail/email with the instructor if running late. This will count as a tardy.
- Mark the student as absent if he/she is running late and does not call and leave a message (this includes test dates)
- Lock doors at 5 minutes after scheduled start of class
- Allow late students to enter the class only at the break time

TARDY/ABSENCE CALCULATION PER CLASS

- Two (2) tardies = 1 absence
- Three (3) Unexcused absences or a combination of tardies and absences that equal a total of three (3) unexcused absences = Instructor Option
 - Lower final grade
 - Dismiss student from class with a grade of "F"

Total Absence

A total of 5 absences (excused, unexcused or combination) for all OTA class = student must meet with OTA Advisor and Program Director to discuss strategies for Program completion.

EXCUSED ABSENCE

- Student sick: Doctors note required
- Students child is sick: Doctors note required
- Immediate family member is sick or requires immediate medical attention: note from hospital staff person required
- Death in immediate and/or extended family: Note from funeral home required

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

- Anything not listed under excused absence
- Students must contact the instructor via email regarding an absence or tardy. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused tardy or absence.

Assignments

- All assignments are to be turned in on the scheduled date.

- All assignments submitted online are due by 8 am on the scheduled due date unless otherwise designated. When submitting assignments make sure that a confirmation is given to you before you exit out of D2L. If you are unsure if a confirmation has been sent or not, email a copy of the assignment to your instructor by the due date/time to prevent not getting credit for the assignment.
- All assignments submitted in class are due at the beginning of that class period.
- Students are expected to complete all assignments per syllabus guidelines. It is the student's responsibility to clarify any questions they might have regarding assignment guidelines with instructor prior to the assignment due date.
- All assignments are to be turned in and are required for course grade. If an assignment is turned in late and a late ticket is not used a grade of zero will be recorded for that assignment (instructor discretion). The assignment must still be submitted per instructor guidelines.
- Any assignment uploaded to the Assignment section during lecture/lab time for another class will be awarded a grade of "0". At times there are working labs, and if the student has permission from the lab instructor, the assignment may be uploaded during that lab time. An email must be sent along with the assignment indicating that the instructor gave permission to upload the assignment during that lab time (instructor discretion).
- Templates and assignment drop boxes are provided for some assignments in each course. If a template/assignment drop box is provided, students must use and submit assignment on template/drop box as directed. Failure to submit per instructions/template instructor discretion as follows:
 - 1st year, 1st semester student, on first assignments in all classes will not be penalized. The student will be required to submit the assignment on the correct template in the correct assignment drop box.
 - 1st year 2nd semester- 2nd year students- receive automatic zero on assignments when assigned template not used or assignment submitted in incorrect drop box.

Late Assignments

- If a student has not turned in all assignments at the end of the semester, their course grade will be submitted as "Incomplete". Course grade will be revised upon submission of final work.

Late Assignment Tickets

A variety of circumstances may arise that could cause a student to miss an assignment deadline. In an effort to allow students a "grace" period, each student will receive one (1) "Late Assignment Ticket" per course.

THE LATE ASSIGNMENT TICKET:

- May be used at any point in the semester
- Allows the student to submit any one written, individual assignment, late
- Submission deadlines

- All assignments submitted online are due within two days of the original due date. Assignments due on Thursday would be due by 8am, Saturday; assignments due on Friday would be due by 8am on Sunday.
- Late tickets must be submitted by the assignment deadline in the assignment section for the course as a replacement for the original assignment.
- Late assignments must be submitted in the individual course “Late Ticket” folder within 48 hours of the original due as per above.
- Tickets may not be used for a group project, presentation, test and/or competency checkout
- Tickets may not be shared or transferred between students.
- May not be used for assignments related to an unexcused absence. Example – if a student misses a lab experience (unexcused absence), and there is an assignment associated with that lab, a late ticket may not be submitted for that associated assignment.
- Tickets, per course, are valid for one semester.
- *Late tickets submitted during any class time will not be accepted. (Example: While student sitting in a lecture class posting a late ticket for a later class)*

Presentations

Presentations are an integral part of the teaching/learning process. Students who do not present on the day they are assigned disrupt the teaching/learning process and affect classroom continuity and learning. Most courses require students to participate in both individual and group presentations. The following applies:

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PRESENTATIONS/ASSIGNMENTS

- If a student is unable, for any reason, to present their assignment as scheduled, they must contact the Instructor as soon as possible, BEFORE class is scheduled to begin
 - This is important for all assignments, but especially individual presentations. For individual presentations, the instructor must be able to have adequate time to make alternative plans to address the material.
 - In cases of emergency, instructor discretion applies.
- If a student is absent on their scheduled presentation day (individual or group)
 - Student must provide a medical excuse signed by a physician
 - If the student does not contact the Instructor in a timely manner (BEFORE class is scheduled to begin, allowing for adequate instructor preparation time), he/she will receive a grade of “0” for that assignment.

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

- All presentations will begin at their scheduled time
- If a group member is tardy/absent, the group will still present at their scheduled date/time. Group members are expected to be familiar with the entire presentation and be able to share the information as scheduled
- If a group member is tardy/absent and the group is unable to share all information per assignment guidelines, the group grade will be affected

Competencies

Performance competencies are an integral part of the OTA curriculum. Students must be able to demonstrate the ability to perform a specific skill, and demonstrate effective clinical reasoning to apply that skill in the appropriate manner given a clinical scenario.

Students must earn a grade of “75” or above on each competency to pass the course.

Students enrolled in semesters 1 and 2 (or 1-4 for three-year students) have two opportunities to successfully complete each Competency. If a student fails to complete a Competency with a grade of 75 or better on their first attempt, they are provided a second attempt. If a student is successful on their second attempt their grade from the second attempt will be recorded as the comp. grade, max grade of 92. Students must earn a grade of “75” or better on the second attempt to pass the competency and the course.

NOTE: If a student has a passing grade in the course, but fails a competency on the second attempt, they fail the course

Students enrolled in semester 3 (or 5 for three-year students) follow the same policy as above with one exception. In this final semester if a student fails a Competency twice, they have one opportunity to repeat a Comp a third and final time. This chance is awarded for one Competency in one course only. **Should a student fail two attempts at another competency, in any course, no additional opportunities for retake will be allowed.** Status in the program is again dependent upon prior course pass/fail history.

Competency testing occurs at pre-scheduled times during the semester. Students must complete their competency at the scheduled time.

Excused absences for competencies:

- Student sick: Doctors note required
- Students child is sick: Doctors note required
- Immediate family member is sick or requires immediate medical attention: note from hospital staff person required
- Death in immediate and/or extended family: Note from funeral home required
- Pre-arranged schedule conflict (such as a legal appointment): proof of appointment required, must notify instructor at least two days before competency. NOTE: Regular doctor’s appointments do not apply in this situation
- Schedule conflict approval is at the discretion of the instructor.

If a student misses a scheduled competency (first or second attempt), and has an unexcused absence, s/he will earn a grade of “0”. An unexcused absence for the second attempt will result in course failure.

Students are responsible for contacting the instructor within one week to plan practice/review time. If the student does not contact the instructor within the one week timeframe, the student will earn a grade of “0”.

Online Tests

All tests for the OTA Program are delivered online. Students must use the Respondus Lock Down Browser to take and review all OTA Program tests/quizzes.

All tests, per individual course schedule, will be available to the student at 3pm on the testing date and will remain available through 8am the following morning. This means that students may begin taking a test any time after 3pm for a particular course. All tests must be completed and submitted by 8am the following morning. Individual instructors may impose a time limit on each test (accommodations in testing time will be made only if approval form is received by instructor from Student Disability Services).

If a student is uncertain about their Internet connections at home, it is strongly recommended that they take their tests on a NSCC campus, in an NSCC campus computer lab. *Personal computer problems will not be considered as an excuse if a student misses an online test.*

It is the students responsibility to confirm date and time of test. Failure to take the test on the scheduled date and time will result in a "0" grade.

In cases of emergency, missed tests may be rescheduled, however supporting documentation must be provided. Students must notify the instructor as soon as possible regarding the emergency situation. **Student must contact instructor to schedule test retake.** Retake must be completed within two days of original test date (instructor discretion). If student does not contact instructor for to reschedule, test grade will be a "0".

On occasion, the NSCC My NSCC server may have a glitch that interrupts an individual student's ability to access and/or complete a test. If a student suspects a server problem, proceed as follows:

- Contact NSCC Computer Services Help Desk at 615-353-3678 for assistance
- Notify instructor regarding the server difficulties within two hours of attempting to take the test.
- Student should print out any pertinent error messages, and/or last screen accessed and email it to the instructor.
- Instructor will contact NSCC Computer Services to verify that student contacted the school, and to determine if the issue was an NSCC related computer problem
- If NSCC Computer Services does not find a server problem during the individual students testing period, no further action will be taken, students test score stands.
- If NSCC Computer Services verifies server problems during the individual student's testing period, the following will occur:
 - If the student was unable to access the test:
 - Instructor options:
 - The test will be reset at the beginning; student will have full time to take the test.
 - The instructor reserves the right to offer a similar, but different, test to the student.
 - If the student was "cut off" during their test and went over the allotted time:
 - Instructor options:
 - The instructor will schedule an alternative test time
 - Student will be provided a limited amount of time (time allotted is the instructors discretion) to complete unanswered/not scored questions and answers.

- Student will be provided the full test time and will be required to retake the entire test.
- Instructor reserves the right to offer similar, but different, test questions.
- If the student was able to complete the test during the server disturbance, test scores do not change, no additional time or retakes will be provided.

RESPONDUS LOCKDOWN BROWSER

Students are required to complete all tests using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. This is a downloadable tool that will “lock” your computer from visiting other websites and will disable your computer’s ability to print while you are taking an online test. The lockdown stays in effect until you click the submit button for your test, then all operations return to normal. Lockdown Browser also goes into effect when reviewing your test. You will be prompted to install the browser when you open your first test, or you may download before your test using the information provided for you through each of your course online shells.

Grading

The following scale is used for all OTA program courses:

93 - 100 = A

85 - 92 = B

75 - 84 = C

Anything below a “C” or 75 is not passing and therefore will receive a grade of “F”

Confidentiality, Professionalism, Ethical Practice and the Use of Social Media

Many students use various forms of social media, including but not limited to wikis, blogs, websites, and social networking sites. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter are specific and frequently-used examples of these media. **When using social media, students are expected to act with courtesy and respect toward others.** The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) applies to the use of social media too.

HIPAA is a law that mandates patient confidentiality. This law is strictly enforced, and penalties are attached for non-adherence. Compliance and adherence by Nashville State OTA students is mandatory. Regardless of where or when students make use of these media, students are responsible for the content they post or promote. No student shall abuse or violate confidentiality of any member of the faculty, staff, student body, or off campus activity (clinical).

Use of social media is prevalent among students. **Students should be aware that unwise or inappropriate use of social media can negatively impact educational and career opportunities.** Using social media to discuss any information regarding patients, fellow students, OTA or NSCC faculty, fieldwork educators, fieldwork sites, or any form of testing or student evaluative content will not be. Your program involves confidential information, do not disclose this information. Any student, acting individually or in concert with others, who violates any part of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary procedures as outlined by both NSCC OTA Program policy and Nashville State Community College. Any and all personal client

information with which the student is entrusted will be maintained in a confidential manner at all times.

To avoid these negative impacts, students should consider the following:

- Post content that reflects positively on you and the College. Be aware not only of the content that you post, but of any content that you host (e.g., comments posted by others on your site). Content you host can have the same effect as content you post.
- **Though you may only intend a small group to see what you post, a much larger group may actually see your post. Be aware that your statements may be offensive to others, including classmates or faculty members who may read what you post.**
- Employers and others may use social media to evaluate applicants. Choosing to post distasteful, immature, or offensive content may eliminate job or other opportunities.
- Once you have posted something via social media, it is out of your control. Others may see it, repost it, save it, forward it to others, etc. Retracting content after you have posted it is practically impossible.
- If you post content concerning the College, make it clear that you do not represent the College and that the content you are posting does not represent the views of the College.
- Make sure the content you post is in harmony with the ethical standards of the NSCC OTA Program, Nashville State Community College and the American Occupational Therapy Association.

NSCC Academic Dishonesty (Honor Code)

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated. In addition to NSCC Academic Dishonesty Policy (below) the following applies:

If evidence demonstrates a student is cheating, the following options are available to the Instructor:

- “0” grade for the assignment
- Dismissal from the course with a grade of “F”
- Dismissal from the Program

Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. Students are responsible for understanding and abiding by the [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) in the Nashville State Student Code of Conduct. In addition to other possible disciplinary measures that may be applied through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination, or to assign an “F” for the course. Students may appeal through the appropriate college grade appeal procedures.

“Plagiarism may result from: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words” (A Writer’s Reference 331). Academic dishonesty may be defined as, but is not limited to, intentionally trying to deceive by claiming credit for the work of another person, using information from a web page or source without citing the reference, fraudulently using someone else’s work on an exam, paper, or assignment, recycling your own work from another course, purchasing papers or materials from another source and presenting them as your own, attempting to obtain exams/materials/assignments in advance of the date of administration by the instructor, impersonating someone else in a testing situation, providing confidential test information to someone else, submitting the same assignment in two different classes without requesting both instructor’s permission, allowing someone else to copy or use your work, using someone else’s work to complete your own, altering documents, transcripts or grades, and forging a faculty/staff member’s signature.

In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “Zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination or to assign an “F” for the course. Students may appeal through the appropriate college grade appeal procedures.

NSCC Appeals Process

If a student believes that he/she has been erroneously accused of academic dishonesty and if his/her final grade has been lowered as a result, the student may appeal the case through the appropriate college grade appeal procedures as outlined in the *Student Handbook*.

For questions regarding other College policies not listed in this document, please go to www.nsc.edu