

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR THE STUDENT

Becoming an Occupational Therapy Assistant requires the completion of an education program that is both intellectually and physically demanding. The student will be expected to acquire knowledge, motor skills, and behavior and attitudes that are necessary to provide ethical, safe, effective, compassionate patient care. The purpose of this document is to inform candidates to the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program of the demands that they can reasonably be expected to meet, with or without reasonable accommodation, while participating in the program.

Decisions made by the candidate to enter this program should be made after careful consideration of the following technical standards. These standards reflect reasonable expectations of the OTA student for the performance of common occupational therapy functions encountered in the program. They are also reasonable expectations of employers; however, employers may have different standards. The ability to meet these standards does not guarantee employment upon graduation.

Each candidate in this Associate in Applied Science degree program should *be able to show and/or demonstrate with or without accommodation the following abilities and skills:*

MOTOR

The candidate should *show and/or demonstrate with or without reasonable accommodations*, gross and fine motor capabilities to execute the movements and skills required to provide safe and effective occupational therapy treatment. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Sufficiently *position self* to assist and guard (protect) patients who are walking, exercising or performing other activities.
2. Ability to *position self and transport equipment with or without assistance*.
3. Ability to *show and/or demonstrate* safe and effective transfers (*with or without help*) of adults and children, more than 100 pounds.
4. Ability to *position self* to guide, resist, and assist patients, as well as to *show and/or demonstrate provide* emergency care *with or without assistance*.
5. Ability to *show and/or demonstrate* fabrication; apply and monitor adaptive equipment; *show or perform and demonstrate* functional activities; administer *with or without assistance* components of sensory, motor and Activities of Daily Living Skills (ADL) assessments.
6. Sufficient endurance to move about a classroom or clinical environment steadily throughout the day, including movement across distances, change from one floor to another, and negotiation of small spaces.

SENSORY

[Type here]

Candidate should *show and/or demonstrate with or without reasonable accommodations* sensory abilities to assess and monitor patients, observe physical movement, participate in physical measures, and recognize and respond to patient needs and unsafe situations.

Candidate should *show and/or demonstrate with or without reasonable accommodations* the ability to obtain information in the classroom, laboratory or clinical settings through observation, auscultation, palpation, and other measures, and requires abilities including, but not limited to:

1. Recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language, to observe patient performance in therapy, to *identify* or set parameters on occupational therapy equipment, and to interpret and assess the environment.
2. Recognize and respond to verbal directions and requests, to be aware of safety mechanisms in the environment, and for effective communication between patients/families/co-workers.
3. Ability to *detect* palpation of muscle contractions, to discriminate hot and cold modalities, to exert the necessary pressure to fabricate splints, and to identify joint articulations.

COMMUNICATION

Candidate will need to communicate effectively and efficiently with peers, faculty, patients and their families, and other healthcare providers orally, in writing, and non-verbally. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Ability to *assess* at a level that allows the essential functions of an assignment to be completed safely and effectively.
2. Ability to effectively *convey* and interpret information to patients, family members, other health care professionals and third party payers as appropriate.
3. Ability to recognize, interpret, and respond to the nonverbal behavior of self and others.

BEHAVIOR

Candidate should be capable of exercising good judgment, developing empathic and therapeutic relationships with patients and others, working in stressful situations, and tolerating close physical contact with co-workers and patients. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Ability to work with multiple patients/families and colleagues at the same time.
2. Ability to work with lab partners, patients, families, and others under stressful conditions, including but not limited to *individuals with unstable medical and/or mental health diagnoses* situations requiring rapid adaptations, the provision of CPR, or other emergency interventions.
3. Ability to prioritize multiple tasks, integrate information and make decisions.
4. Ability to work with individuals of varying ages and socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
5. Ability to consistently provide a therapeutic presence.
6. Ability to work collaboratively with all (both male, female, and non-gender conforming) OTA students and with program faculty in the classroom, lab, and clinical settings.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting Disability Support Services at 253-833-9111, ext. 2631; TTY 253-288-3359; or by email at dss@greenriver.edu.

Green River College is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Learn more at www.greenriver.edu/accessibility.

[Type here]

7. Ability to accept feedback and appropriately modify behavior in response to supervisory feedback.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting Disability Support Services at 253-833-9111, ext. 2631; TTY 253-288-3359; or by email at dss@greenriver.edu.

Green River College is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Learn more at www.greenriver.edu/accessibility.

[Type here]

8. Ability to demonstrate values, attitudes, and behaviors consistent with the OT Professional Code of Ethics.
9. Ability to display professional appearance (appropriate dress and personal grooming) while involved in all school, clinical, and professional activities.
10. Ability to handle personal and professional problems appropriately so they do not interfere with classroom and clinical performance.

CRITICAL THINKING

Candidate should *be able to demonstrate with or without accommodation* abilities in the areas of critical problem solving, reasoning, and assessment to be able to comprehend and process information in a timely manner. Candidate will be asked to prioritize, organize and attend to tasks and responsibilities efficiently. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Ability to collect and interpret data.
2. Ability to prioritize multiple tasks, integrate information and make decisions.
3. Ability to apply knowledge from fundamental and technical education to the provision of occupational therapy care which includes the ability to plan and implement treatment programs that are applicable and practical and provide creative treatment alternatives.
4. The ability to problem solve in order to act safely and ethically in the occupational therapy lab and clinic.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS SIGNATURE FORM

Please sign and return this signed form with the application packet. Keep the Essential Functions for your records.

My signature acknowledges that I have been provided with the document "Essential Functions" for OTA students and *recognize* it in its' entirety. I understand and can meet the expectations of an occupational therapy assistant student. I know that I may request reasonable accommodation if I believe I cannot meet the standards.

Name:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting Disability Support Services at 253-833-9111, ext. 2631; TTY 253-288-3359; or by email at dss@greenriver.edu.

Green River College is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Learn more at www.greenriver.edu/accessibility.