

Technical Standards

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

(adapted from AOTA Model Technical Standards for Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy Assistant Education Programs)

According to federal guidance on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, “the term technical standards refers to all nonacademic admissions criteria that are essential to participation in the program in question” (34 C.F.R. pt. 104, app. A, 1980).

This document serves as a model of Technical Standards that can be used and may be adapted to define the essential non-academic abilities required for successful participation in an occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant education program. These standards ensure that all qualified students can meet the program's requirements with or without reasonable accommodations.

The domains reflect the requirements and attributes expected of students in the occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant programs. The language used is consistent with the profession's Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: 4th Edition (OTPF-4) (The American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 2020). It is intended to serve as a guide that may be adapted by programs to meet their specific needs.

Students must be able to do the following with or without reasonable accommodations:

1. Knowledge Acquisition & Application

- Learn and apply foundational and practice knowledge
- Recognize, define, analyze, synthesize, and apply information using sound judgment and problem-solving
- Notice, respond, and adjust to dynamic situations as they occur
- Plan, sequence, and coordinate tasks

2. Communication & Collaboration

- Communicate effectively and respectfully with a variety of audiences
- Respect varying viewpoints using professional language across all interactions
- Produce communication in a clear, concise, and accurate manner
- Apply basic technological skills in educational programs

Verbal and non-verbal communication may occur through spoken word, in writing, digitally, through augmentative devices, interpreters, etc.

3. Professional & Ethical Conduct

- Initiate, terminate, and produce social interaction
- Demonstrate ethical behavior, reliability, and integrity
- Adapt according to feedback from others and learned experiences
- Self-initiate for personal and educational needs
- Identify and reflect on personal strengths and needs while respecting those of others
- Demonstrate consistent and timely management in educational activities
- Follow published policies and procedures

4. Functional Performance & Motor Coordination

- Safely engage in or direct tasks that involve positioning, movement, and/or material handling
- Move and transport objects of a variety of sizes and weights
- Safely navigate within a variety of environments

5. Health & Safety

- Engage in practices that prioritize the safety and well-being of self and others
- Notice, respond, and adjust to unsafe situations as they occur
- Adhere to infection control and universal precautions

Summary Statement for Program

All qualified students must be able to perform the technical standards of Wilmington College's Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program with or without reasonable accommodations. The Technical Standards are inclusive of diverse abilities and grounded in the values of equity, access, and professional excellence.

Statement on Access and Inclusion

Occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant educational programs are committed to providing equitable access to education for all qualified students, in accordance with the Civil Rights Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. In addition, the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment ensures that individuals cannot be denied equal protection under the law, including students with disabilities. Students who disclose a disability and request reasonable accommodations will be supported in accessing reasonable, effective, individualized, timely accommodations that do not fundamentally alter the program or create an undue burden.

Wilmington College Accessibility and Disability Services

<https://www.wilmington.edu/current-students/disability-services>

The student applicant attests they have reviewed and can meet the above technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

Student Printed Name

Date

Student Signature

Date

References

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) (2020). Occupational therapy practice framework: Domain and process (4th ed.). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 74(2), 7412410010p1–7412410010p87.

<https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.74S2001>

U.S. Department of Education (1980). *Nondiscrimination on the basis of handicap in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance* (34 C.F.R. Part 104, App. A).

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-B/chapter-I/part-104>

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