

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT TECHNICAL ABILITY STANDARDS

Students matriculating in and graduating from the Parkland College Occupational Therapy Assistant Program (OTA) must be capable of developing and providing client-centered services in an informed and safe manner under the supervision of the Occupational Therapist. As an incoming OTA student, it is recommended that you have the following minimum skills and abilities for successful progression in this program.

<b>Sensory</b>	(a) Functional visual abilities (with correction, as needed) sufficient to closely observe one or more persons at a 10 foot distance, and closely monitor facial expressions, skin coloration, muscular tension, and detailed workmanship. (b) Functional auditory acuity (with correction, as needed) sufficient to comprehend one or more persons engaged in conversation, and to hear monitoring, communication and safety device signals. (c) Spatial reasoning abilities sufficient to plan and implement modifications of tools, materials and the environment, and to observe human movement.
<b>Communication</b>	Ability to use English written and spoken language skills for effective communication with individuals in all health care professions, clients, family members and care providers.
<b>Organization</b>	Ability to organize concepts, schedule, materials, and work space.
<b>Attention</b>	Ability to effectively attend to multiple features of a task, personal interaction, and/or group to include ability to selectively focus and attend to key features, use divided and alternating attention between two or more features, in a quick, safe manner.
<b>Multi-tasking</b>	Ability to organize, attend to and engage in multi-tasking in academic and client services in a timely and safe manner.
<b>Problem-solving</b>	Ability to engage in decision-making and problem-solving for use in clinical reasoning and safe practice.
<b>Learning</b>	Ability to effectively use a variety of teaching/learning methods and strategies in both individual and collaborative learning situations.
<b>Information Literacy</b>	Ability to access, evaluate, and use a variety of information resources such as library services, electronic catalogs, databases, in an efficient, ethical and legal manner.
<b>Strength</b>	Sufficient body strength to sustain work level on a full-time basis, while performing intermittent moderate to heavy work levels (lifting of 25 lbs. above shoulder level; lifting, pushing, pulling 50+ lbs), and the ability to assist a person to move to different positions and surfaces.
<b>Coordination</b>	Ability to use fine skilled movements, such as finger dexterity and eye-hand coordination, for effective tool use, dressing, personal hygiene, grooming, cooking and written communication skills.
<b>Work Ethics</b>	Ability to use effective work ethic skills to include attendance, punctuality, positive work attitude, respect, cooperation, teamwork, professional manners, productivity appropriate to course and job role requirements and to work with persons with diverse backgrounds.
<b>Emotional Coping</b>	Ability to adapt effectively to fluctuations in emotional and physical stress levels to include ability to maintain composure in moderate to high levels of stress in emergency situations.
<b>Transportation</b>	Ability to access transportation to attend classes and clinical internship sites in a timely manner.
<b>Computer/ Technology</b>	Ability to use basic computer, word processing, electronic communication and on-line course skills on a regular basis.

If you have any concerns that you might not meet these standards, please contact Rebecca Bahnke, OTA Program Director at 351-2394 or Rita Myles, Health Professions Program Manager, at 353-2681. Reasonable accommodations will be made as appropriate for safe & effective practice.