

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM

The faculty of the Walsh University Master of Occupational Therapy Program within the College of Health and Sciences have established Technical Standards specific to professional students within the program. Technical standards are requirements essential for admission to and continued participation in the Master of Occupational Therapy Program. These standards may include, but are not limited to, demonstrated abilities within clinical and academic contexts, professional behaviors, and considerations related to health and safety.

Program Specific Description

The Master of Occupational Therapy Program at Walsh University is grounded in holistic, person-centered care that honors the dignity and unique value of each individual. Guided by the University's Catholic mission, the program prepares compassionate, ethical, and service-oriented practitioners committed to serving others, advancing the profession, and contributing to the greater good.

This rigorous program requires a high level of academic, clinical, and professional engagement. Students must be able to meet the physical, cognitive, and psychosocial demands essential to occupational therapy practice to ensure safe, effective, and compassionate care.

The following technical standards, in addition to the academic requirements of the Occupational Therapy Program, are required for admission, progression through the curriculum, and graduation from Walsh University. The standards outlined below represent the essential abilities expected of all students enrolled in the program.

Reasonable Accommodations Statement

The program is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students seeking accommodation should contact the Walsh University Office of Accessibility Services.

<https://www.walsh.edu/accessibility.html> Accommodations will be determined on an individual basis and must not compromise the essential functions of the program or the safety of clients, students, or others.

Statement on Temporary Conditions

Students experiencing temporary illness or injury (e.g., surgery, musculoskeletal injury) are responsible for notifying the program promptly. Temporary adjustments may be considered; however, students must still be able to meet essential technical standards to progress and participate in clinical education.

Occupational Therapy Student Professional Competencies

Students enrolled in the Master of Occupational Therapy Program must demonstrate the ability to:

1. Implement therapeutic interventions that support sensory and motor performance appropriate to the client's developmental level.
2. Analyze, grade, and adapt activities to optimize occupational performance and prevent further harm or disability.
3. Promote the development of skills, habits, and routines that support independence and meaningful participation in daily occupations.
4. Design, fabricate, and instruct clients in the use of orthotic and prosthetic devices and adaptive equipment to enhance function.
5. Conduct comprehensive occupational therapy evaluations addressing physical, cognitive, psychosocial, and functional domains.
6. Implement intervention plans that address ADLs, IADLs, functional mobility, and participation outcomes.

7. Apply the skills necessary to perform and assess transfers, range of motion, strength, endurance, coordination, and sensory function.
8. Utilize clinical reasoning to interpret evaluation findings and guide intervention planning.
9. Communicate effectively and professionally with clients, families, and interdisciplinary team members across diverse populations.
10. Establish therapeutic rapport and appropriately use therapeutic use of self in client interactions.
11. Document evaluations, interventions, and outcomes clearly, accurately, and in a timely manner.
12. Apply critical thinking to analyze, synthesize, and integrate information for problem-solving in clinical situations.
13. Maintain professionalism and composure when managing stress, time constraints, and challenging client behaviors.
14. Adapt to changing environments and demonstrate flexibility in dynamic clinical settings.
15. Provide culturally responsive, equitable, and client-centered care without bias.
16. Adhere to ethical decision-making principles and professional behaviors aligned with occupational therapy standards of practice.
17. Engage in professional, effective interpersonal collaboration with peers, faculty, and community members.
18. Utilize technology and evidence-based resources to support evaluation and intervention processes.
19. Engage in self-directed learning, including seeking, receiving, and incorporating feedback to support professional growth.
20. Regulate emotional responses in academic, clinical, and professional settings to ensure safe and effective practice.

Students are required to independently demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and professional judgment necessary to meet all technical standards and, by enrolling in the Master of Occupational Therapy Program, acknowledge that they understand and can consistently meet these standards, with or without reasonable accommodations. Students must review and affirm this ability on an ongoing basis; if, at any time, a matriculated student is unable to meet these standards, they are expected to promptly contact the Walsh University Office of Accessibility Services to request accommodations, consult with the program's Program Chair and/or Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, and complete an updated technical standards attestation.

Please select one of the options below and sign where indicated:

- ☐ I certify that I have read and understand the Technical Standards criteria for students, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards **without accommodation**. I also understand that if I am unable, or become unable, to meet these standards, even with accommodation, I cannot enroll or remain enrolled in the Master of Occupational Therapy Program. I also understand that if I am unable, or become unable, to meet these standards, I should complete a new technical standards attestation and follow the steps below.
- ☐ I certify that I have read and understand the Technical Standards criteria for students, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards **with accommodation**. Please contact the Office of Accessibility Services to request accommodation [Accessibility Services](#) for more information, 330.490.7529. I will provide the Program Chair/Academic Fieldwork Coordinator with documentation from Office of Accessibility Services to determine appropriate accommodation option and complete a new technical standards attestation. I understand that in some cases accommodation might not be possible. I also understand that if I am unable, or become unable, to meet these technical standards, even with accommodation, I cannot enroll or remain enrolled in the Master of Occupational Therapy Program.

Signature of Student

Date