

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
School of Allied Health Professions
DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Technical standards are the requirements that an individual must be able to perform in order to succeed as an occupational therapist. Upon completion of the Occupational Therapy Program at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, a graduate will be expected to perform all technical standards. Therefore, as a student in the Occupational Therapy Program, one will be required to participate in activities that will prepare him or her to perform all technical standards. If accommodations are needed by a student in order to perform the technical standards, he or she must notify the program director after being accepted into the program.

The major function of an Occupational Therapist (OTR) is to provide occupational therapy services, including assessment, intervention, program planning and implementation, discharge planning related documentation, and communication.

Technical standards for an entry level occupational therapist are as follows:

1. Communicates effectively.
 - Communicates and collaborates with other team members, individuals, family members, or caregivers.
2. Interacts well with others.
3. Performs services in a timely fashion.
 - Responds to requests for service and initiates referrals when appropriate.
 - Schedules and prioritizes own workload.
4. Observes and documents the performance of others.
 - Screens individuals to determine the need for intervention.
 - Monitors the individual's response to intervention.
5. Obtains and interprets data necessary for treatment planning and intervention.
6. Formulates and implements treatment plans based on evaluation findings.
 - Develops and coordinates intervention plans, including goals and methods to achieve stated goals.
 - Implements treatment plans directly or in collaboration with others.
 - Modifies plan as needed.

7. Develops interventions that are appropriate for the individual's environment.
 - Adapts environment, tools, materials, and activities according to the contextual needs of the individual.
 - Develops appropriate home and community programming to support performance in natural environments.
8. Determine the appropriate time to terminate treatment or refer to other service/s.
 - Terminates services when maximum benefit is received and formulates discontinuation and follow-up plans.
9. Documents services as required.
 - Maintains records required by practice setting, third party payers, and regulatory agencies.
10. Functions according to the AOTA *Code of Ethics* (AOTA, 2000) and *Standards of Practice* (AOTA, 1998) of the profession.
11. Maintains treatment area.
 - Maintains treatment area, equipment, and supply inventory.
12. Follows policies and procedures required by the setting.
13. Provides educational services.
 - Provides in-service education to team members and/or the community.
14. Provides supervisory services, if needed.
 - Supervises occupational therapy practitioners, students, and/or other staff performing services.
15. Performs program evaluation.
 - Performs continuous quality improvement activities and program evaluation using predetermined criteria.
16. Identifies personal strengths and weaknesses.
 - Monitors own performance and identifies supervisory needs.
 - Participates in professional growth activities.
 - Identifies and pursues own professional growth and development.
 - Participates in professional and community activities.