



Department of Occupational Therapy

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS, POLICIES, AND GUIDELINES

The faculty at LSUHSC – New Orleans, School of Allied Health Professions, Department of Occupational Therapy, welcomes you to the professional portion of your academic education. As a professional program, expectations of students are somewhat different from those you may have experienced in the pre-professional portion of your education. The following policies and guidelines are provided to assist you in understanding our expectations for your professional behavior.

Professional Behavior

1. **Class attendance is required.** Students are expected to provide advanced notice of absences or a reasonable explanation to the faculty member whose class is missed *as soon as possible* (and not later than 24 hours) after the missed class. In case of serious illness, or other emergencies, the student will need to directly inform his/her instructor via personal email or phone. If the faculty member is not available, the student will need to leave a message with the office staff of the Occupational Therapy Department for that faculty member at (504) 568-4302. If a serious illness or emergency occurs on a day the student is scheduled for fieldwork or observations, it is the student's responsibility to inform the fieldwork supervisor at the facility, as well as the course instructor. Timelines for notification referred to above should be followed. Missed fieldwork may be required to be made-up. In the event of serious illness or emergency, the student and instructor will develop a written plan for making up missed fieldwork.
2. **E-mail requirements.** Upon registration in the program, each student is assigned an e-mail account through LSUHSC. Students will be required to use their LSUHSC e-mail accounts for registration purposes, and to receive messages from the School and the Department. It is expected that the student correspond with faculty members through their LSUHSC e-mail account. Students are expected to check their e-mail at least once daily. Please refer to the information provided by the Information Technology Department in the School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) for the “Guidelines for the Development of Passwords”.
3. **In-class computer use.** Courses may require the use of laptops for classroom activities, including exams, quizzes, or other classroom activities. *Please refer to course syllabi for specific policies for laptop use and communicate with the course coordinator/*

instructor for answers to specific questions. When laptops are used in class, it is expected to be for school classroom activities **only**. Any student using a computer during class for non-school related activities will be excused from the classroom. Students failing to comply with this policy will be reported to the Dean's office, Department Head, and/or appropriate designee for disciplinary action and may be subject to dismissal from the program.

4. **Student purchase of textbooks is required.** Each semester, students are provided with a book list needed for each course for the upcoming semester. Textbooks are indicated as being required or recommended. Students must obtain all required books for each semester, as assigned readings must be completed before coming to the class session. The majority of the books purchased will be used over multiple semesters and will be excellent resources for fieldwork and clinical practice.
5. **Cell phones are to be turned off during all classes and during all meetings with faculty.** In the rare case of an emergency, the student is to ask for permission from the faculty member in charge of a given class or meeting to keep a cell phone turned on in order to receive the emergency call.
6. **Proper attire is required for all classroom, laboratory, and clinic sessions.** Patients/clients frequent the LSU Health Sciences Center daily. Therefore, students are required to dress in attire suitable for the professional environment in which their classes are held, not just during visits to clinical sites away from campus. Bare feet, short shorts or skirts (closer to hip than knee), tank tops, spaghetti straps, tube tops, athletic wear, yoga pants, and other revealing outfits are not considered professional or acceptable attire. Leggings are appropriate for class only when worn with a shirt that is long enough to cover the student's back side. Faculty will give instructions for laboratory, fieldwork dress, and presentation attire as indicated. Long hair should be pulled back when in situations where clients are involved. **Artificial fingernails** cannot be worn when providing hands-on patient care or during fieldwork.

During the department's Neurological Clinic, students are required to wear scrubs or full-length pants with a polo-style shirt, socks, and closed-toe shoes. No dresses, skirts, jeans, shorts, or leggings.

7. **Students MUST respect the confidentiality of their clients/patients, colleagues and faculty.** The student is required to respect the dignity, individuality, privacy and personality of each and every individual. Information about a client should be shared on a "need to know" basis only, and not for reasons of personal interest. In other words, in order to provide services, it is necessary for various professional personnel to know personal information about a client. If a client's information is discussed related to official class business (e.g., during seminars, classes), the client's identity must remain anonymous; and information about the client that is not necessary to the learning situation must not be shared, (e.g., identity of known relatives, legal or moral issues not related to OT services being rendered). This is also true about personal discussions that students participate in during class time. Students are expected to respect the confidentiality and

privacy of your classmates. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines must be adhered to at all times.

8. **Unprofessional, unethical, and illegal conduct** of any kind, including cheating on examinations or classroom assignments, plagiarism, and theft, etc., will subject the offending student to appropriate disciplinary measures that can include expulsion. (See the Student Handbook under LSUHSC School of Allied Health Professions Policy and Procedures Relating to Academic Misconduct.)
9. **Professional membership.** Being part of a profession required that one displays various professional behaviors.
 - a. Students are expected to treat fellow students and other colleagues in a professional manner, meaning with respect and dignity. Disrespectful behaviors are not tolerated.
 - b. Professionals are expected to be life-long learners. They are also expected to participate in their respective professional organizations. All students are required to become members of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and the Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association (LOTA). It is strongly encouraged that students become members of the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA).
10. **Hall conduct.** Students need to be cognizant when talking and gathering in the halls, as noise travels easily. We ask that they make an effort to keep the noise at a minimum, particularly since we share the floor other colleagues.
11. **Classrooms.** Students are expected to demonstrate respect for the School and courtesy to others. Students are expected to take adult responsibility for keeping the classrooms free of trash and debris, i.e., soft drink cans, papers, etc. Bulletin boards are intended for the display of instructional and professional materials, not personal or social items.
12. **Waiting Room/Student Lounge.** Students may occupy the room off the elevators that is a combined client waiting room/student lounge. The microwave and refrigerator in that room are for student use on the condition that students keep them clean at all times. Any food that is left in the refrigerator or in that room must be marked with the student's name. **Food items that are left in the refrigerator or in the waiting room/student lounge without a name attached are to be discarded by students.** The student refrigerator and microwave are to be emptied and cleaned at the end of each semester and cleared at the end of each week during hurricane season (June 1 to November 30). It is the responsibility of the students to see that these tasks are performed on a regular basis. Failure to keep both items clean may result in the termination of the use of these items.
13. **The use of alcohol is prohibited** in classroom buildings, laboratories, auditoriums, library buildings, faculty and administrative offices, athletic facilities, and all other public campus areas. Alcohol may be served for special events on campus with written authorization from the Dean, Chancellor, or their authorized designee.

14. The unauthorized **use of, possession of, or being under the influence of alcohol** and the illegal use, abuse, possession, manufacture, dispensation, distribution of, or being under the influence of controlled **or illegal drugs is prohibited** while at work, on call, on duty, at school, or engaged in LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans campus business on or off LSUHSC-NO premises.
15. We are committed to a **Violence Free Workplace**. Consistent with this policy, it is illegal and expressly prohibited to engage in the unauthorized carrying of a firearm or a dangerous weapon, by a student or non-student on University property at anytime. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, school sponsored functions or in a firearm-free zone. Violators will be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
16. LSUHSC – New Orleans is 100% tobacco-free, both indoors and out.

General Policies and Guidelines:

1. **Faculty**
 - a. Appointments with a faculty member outside of class:
 - 1) It is preferred that students make non-emergency appointments with faculty members in advance.
 - 2) Faculty members are available on an as-needed basis or at designated office times. Students or faculty may initiate a meeting.
 - 3) The student or faculty member will need to make an appointment at a time that is convenient to both parties. If a message is sent via email, indicate two to four possible meeting times in order to expedite the process of establishing an appointment.
 - b. When a faculty member's door is closed, it is often because he or she is addressing job related responsibilities requiring privacy or time away from the office. If a faculty member's door is open, it is expected that students knock before entering and requesting to speak with the faculty member.
 - c. Students are not permitted in faculty offices or in the Copy Room unsupervised.
 - d. Students should meet with the faculty member(s) responsible for a course to discuss course-specific policies and procedures. Students may elect to have their advisor present at such meetings. If a student is not satisfied with the results of a meeting with a faculty member, he or she may then discuss the issue with the Department Head. For information about academic appeals, students can refer to that section under the School of Allied Health Professions in the LSUHSC Catalog/Bulletin also available in Student Handbook.
2. **Written reports** are required to be written in APA style according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition*, unless otherwise indicated by the course instructor. Students are required to purchase a personal copy.
3. **Building access.** Students have access to the OT lab 24-7. Please use the buddy system

for safety. All other areas of the Department are off-limits after 4:30 and on weekends, unless faculty approval has been obtained.

4. **Campus emergency phone numbers** are placed in all classrooms and on bulletin boards.
5. **Mail boxes** are provided for students in the OT Lab. Please check your boxes regularly. Faculty mailboxes are located in the Main OT Office.
6. **Computer access.** Computers are available for student use in the LSUHSC library and in the OT Student Computer Lab. Other Department equipment is off-limits to students unless faculty or staff permission is received.
7. **Photocopy use.** Photocopies for student use must be made on the 6th floor or in the LSUHSC Library.
8. **Fieldwork.** Expenses may be incurred by students enrolled in Fieldwork Experiences in off-campus or out-of-state health care facilities. These expenses are the responsibility of the individual student and **SHOULD BE ANTICIPATED**. Please refer to the Level I and Level II Student Fieldwork Handbooks for specifics related to fieldwork, such as background checks, drug screens, malpractice insurance, CPR certification, etc.
9. **Employment.** Fulfillment of the requirements for the MOT degree requires a serious commitment of time and effort. Therefore, employment is discouraged, especially weekday employment. Students are encouraged to carefully weigh and manage their responsibilities at home, school, work, etc. while in the program.
10. **Student Organizations.** All students are eligible to be a member of the Student Occupational Therapy Association. Qualifying students will also be eligible for the national honor society for occupational therapy, Pi Theta Epsilon. More information regarding student organizations and opportunities to participate within the School, University, and community will be distributed throughout the program.
11. **Representation of the LSUHSC Occupational Therapy Department.** Any fundraising completed in the name of the department, school, or institution must receive approval through Academic Affairs (Dr. Erin Dugan, Associate Dean). Forms are available on the school's website. Any promotional materials should be approved by the Department Head of OT.
12. **SAFETY TIPS. Theft is common in and around the LSU Health Sciences Center.** Keep your property secure at all times, even when moving between classrooms. Do not leave your backpacks, purses, or bags in one classroom while in another. Lockers are available in the restrooms, but you need to supply your own combination lock. When walking to and from your vehicle, be vigilant of your surroundings. Attacks on persons are infrequent, but they do happen. If possible, do not walk alone, especially at night. The University Police will escort you if you request the service. **Look out for each other, and BE SAFE!!!!**

13. **Exit Interview.** Students are required to attend an exit interview at the completion of their program, and prior to graduation. Data will be collected that is required by ACOTE as part of the ongoing accreditation process. Details regarding the date and time of the interview are distributed in a timely manner leading up to the event.

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