

**Core Performance Standards / Essential Functions
for the
Occupational Therapy Assistant**

These standards are based upon required abilities that are compatible with effective performance in a career as an Occupational Therapy Assistant.

Capability	Standard	Some Examples of Necessary Activities (Not all Inclusive)
Cognitive-Perception	The ability to perceive events realistically, to think clearly and rationally, and to function appropriately in routine and stressful situations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify changes in patient/client health status • Handle multiple priorities in stressful situations • Respond to rapidly changing client status
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for sound clinical judgement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations • Develop plans of care • Ability to respond appropriately and quickly in emergency situations
Interpersonal	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact appropriately with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish rapport with patients/clients and colleagues • Demonstrate high degree of patience • Manage a variety of patient/client expressions (anger, fear, hostility) in a calm manner
Communication	Communication abilities in English sufficient for appropriate interaction with others in verbal and written form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read, understand, write and speak English competently • Explain treatment procedures • Initiate health teaching • Document patient/client responses • Validate responses/messages with others
Mobility	Ambulatory capability to sufficiently maintain a center of gravity when met with an opposing force as in lifting, supporting, and/or transferring a patient/client.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to propel wheelchairs, etc., alone or with assistance as available • The ability to ambulate patients utilizing a gait belt.

Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care and documentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position patients/clients • Transfer patients/clients • Reach, manipulate, and operate equipment, instruments and supplies • Lift, carry, push and pull • Electronic Documentation • Perform CPR
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess, or document health needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hears monitor alarms, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, cries for help • Hears telephone interactions/dictation
Visual	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in patient/client care, accurate color discrimination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observes patient/client responses • Discriminates color changes • Accurately reads measurement on patient/client equipment
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment, inclusive of size, shape, temperature and texture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performs palpation • Performs functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention
Activity Tolerance	The ability to tolerate lengthy periods of physical activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move quickly and/or continuously • Tolerate long periods of standing and/or sitting
Environmental	Ability to tolerate environmental stressors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt to rotating shifts • Work with chemicals and detergents • Tolerate exposure to fumes and odors • Work in areas that are close and crowded • Work in areas of potential physical violence