

## Capacity Standards

Students must be in a state of physical and mental health compatible with the responsibilities of a career as an occupational therapy assistant and in general, working with individuals in a healthcare or other provider environment. Upon acceptance to the program, a physical examination, selected diagnostic tests and immunizations will be required (forms will be provided). In addition, students must carry liability/malpractice insurance coverage throughout the duration of the OTA Program; this coverage is available from the home campus and may be included in tuition/fees or it may be an additional expense depending on the policy at each home campus.

## Performance Standards for Occupational Therapy Assistant Students

Students enrolled in the MHPC OTA Program are expected to meet the following performance standards:

Ability	Standard	Some Examples of Necessary Activities
Mobility	Ability sufficient to assist clients to move from room to room, move over varied terrain, and provide safe and effective client care in a timely fashion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist adults and children with transfers to/from a variety of surfaces and provide proper positioning for the clients independently and safely.</li> <li>Transport adults and children in wheelchairs.</li> <li>Transport and set up intervention and therapeutic equipment such as swings, balls, splint pans, prostheses, tub seats, portable commodes, etc.</li> <li>Physically support clients engaging in treatment safely during treatment sessions.</li> </ul>
Fine Motor Skills	Fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care in a timely fashion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use instruments such as goniometers and strength gauges, safety devices, adaptive equipment in the care/treatment of clients.</li> <li>Construction of splints, adaptive equipment, as needed.</li> </ul>
Hearing	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs of clients for safe client care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detect and respond independently to monitoring alarms, signs of client's distress such as a change in a client's pulse, blood pressure, and/or a client's communication of distress.</li> </ul>
Visual	Sufficient observation skills necessary for safe client care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detect and respond independently to warning signals from team members and/or clients of impending danger or emergency, i.e. a change in an individual's physical communication of distress.</li> </ul>
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking sufficient for clinical judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret and carry out written and verbal communication often in stressful situations.</li> <li>Identify cause-effect relationship to develop appropriate and safe intervention strategies following OTR plan of care.</li> <li>Determine when assistance from an OTR is needed.</li> </ul>
Interpersonal Skill	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with clients, families, groups, team members from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish rapport and maintain professional boundaries in relationships with clients/families and colleagues.</li> <li>Motivate and engage clients in treatment.</li> <li>Ability to resolve conflict and to respond to feedback in a professional manner.</li> <li>Respond appropriately and effectively with psychotic behavior and/or threatening inappropriate or aggressive behavior that may be exhibited by clients.</li> </ul>
Communication	Communication abilities for interaction with others orally and in writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accurately present therapy findings/results /plan to clients/families and in team meetings.</li> <li>Instruct client/family in OT treatment procedures.</li> <li>Accurately document client progress notes, reports according to facility guidelines and standards.</li> </ul>