

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM

## MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND CONTINUATION

### **Post-professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate (PP-OTD)**

Read this information sheet carefully and retain it for your records

#### Introduction

The Occupational Therapy Program at SUNY Downstate Health Science University upholds diversity and inclusivity as core values. Our commitment extends to providing a supportive environment where every student, including those with disabilities, can thrive. We strive to attract and nurture students who aspire to excel as highly skilled, reflective, creative, and compassionate occupational therapists.

The Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate (PP-OTD) program is a 100% online doctoral program designed for licensed occupational therapists seeking advanced preparation in leadership, scholarship, education, policy, advocacy, and systems-level practice. As such, the technical standards outlined below reflect the essential academic, professional, and technological requirements necessary for participation and successful completion of the PP-OTD program. These standards are distinct from entry-level occupational therapy technical standards and do not require demonstration of hands-on clinical skills.

To ensure transparency and clarity, we outline technical standards that delineate the skills, abilities, and behavioral characteristics necessary for success in our academic program. These standards encompass acquiring fundamental knowledge, fostering effective communication skills, interpreting data and practice information, cultivating sound judgment, and exhibiting professional behaviors and attitudes.

Aligned with our commitment to accessibility, both the technical and academic standards are integral to admission, progression, and graduation requirements. We engage in an interactive process with qualified students who request accommodations to determine reasonable modifications, auxiliary aids, or services that support access to the program. Accommodations are determined on an individualized basis and are designed to ensure equal access to the academic program while preserving the essential requirements, academic integrity, and professional expectations of doctoral-level education. We encourage students to engage with Student Affairs for confidential discussions about their specific learning needs. Timely accommodation requests are welcomed and essential, as we recognize that the experiential nature of our program may require additional time to implement accommodations effectively.

#### Technical Standards

Candidates for the Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate (PP-OTD) must demonstrate abilities, attributes, and skills in the following areas:

- Observation and Information Processing
- Communication
- Technology, Access, and Digital Participation
- Intellectual (Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative) Abilities
- Behavioral, Professional, and Social Attributes

Observation and Information Processing	<p>Students must be able to accurately observe, interpret, and analyze information presented through digital and written formats. This includes, but is not limited to, scholarly literature, data sets, recorded or live video content, case materials, policy documents, and other multimedia instructional resources. Students must be able to engage in critical reflection and analytic observation of professional practice, systems, and outcomes in order to inform advanced reasoning, decision-making, and scholarly work.</p> <p>Observation may be accomplished with or without reasonable accommodations.</p>
Communication	<p>Students must be able to communicate, in English, effectively, professionally, and ethically in both written and verbal forms within an online learning environment. This includes participation in asynchronous discussion boards, synchronous virtual meetings, email correspondence, collaborative digital platforms, and formal scholarly writing.</p> <p>Students must be able to convey complex ideas related to occupational therapy practice, leadership, research, education, policy, and advocacy to diverse audiences, including peers, faculty, and external stakeholders.</p>
Technology, Access, and Digital Participation	<p>Because the PP-OTD program is delivered fully online, students must have consistent access to reliable technology, including a computer or device capable of supporting required software, a stable internet connection, and the ability to use a learning management system, video conferencing platforms, and commonly used productivity and collaboration tools.</p> <p>Students must be able to engage in sustained online learning activities, complete coursework, collaborate with others, and produce scholarly work in digital formats, with or without reasonable accommodations.</p>
Intellectual, (Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative) Abilities	<p>Students must demonstrate advanced intellectual abilities necessary for doctoral-level study, including attention, comprehension, critical inquiry, measurement, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of complex information. Students must be able to apply clinical reasoning and systems-level thinking to analyze practice challenges, evaluate evidence, interpret data, and develop innovative solutions that advance occupational therapy practice and education.</p> <p>Students are expected to engage in evidence-based reasoning, program evaluation, policy analysis, and scholarly dissemination consistent with doctoral-level expectations.</p>
Behavioral, Professional, and Social Attributes	<p>Students must demonstrate professionalism, ethical behavior, integrity, accountability, and respect in all academic and professional interactions, including those conducted in virtual environments. Students must be able to manage time effectively, meet deadlines, engage independently in self-directed learning, and collaborate productively with peers and faculty.</p> <p>Students must demonstrate emotional maturity, adaptability, and resilience in the context of advanced academic work and professional discourse. Students are expected to uphold the ethical standards of the occupational therapy profession and maintain conduct consistent with applicable licensure and professional requirements.</p>

## Conclusion

The SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University Occupational Therapy Program and its sponsoring institution are dedicated to supporting qualified individuals with disabilities by providing reasonable accommodations. Our commitment also includes maintaining the integrity of the curriculum and preserving essential elements necessary for the education of occupational therapists. Ensuring the health and safety of consumers of occupational therapy services is our top priority. Applicants and students who meet the minimum academic and technical standards will be well-prepared for the rewarding practice of occupational therapy.

## Signature

I have read, understand, and agree to the technical standards as published above.

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Signature

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Date