



Division of Occupational Therapy

OTD Student Handbook

Academic Year 2023 - 2024

Dear Student:

This handbook has been compiled to provide essential information about the Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program at the West Virginia University School of Medicine. It is designed to inform you about the various program policies as well as the program procedures that will be important to you. Students are advised to read the information carefully and to ask questions about coursework, clinical requirements, academic standards, the School of Medicine, the Department of Human Performance, and the Division of Occupational Therapy. Although this handbook is specific to the OTD Program, other University resources detail policies not outlined in this handbook that are important to you as a graduate student at this University. Therefore, students are advised to access the Graduate Catalogue at: <https://graduateeducation.wvu.edu/forms-procedures/academic-services-policies-and-procedures>

Students are further advised that they must abide by the West Virginia University Campus Student Code can be found at: <https://studentconduct.wvu.edu>

We hope that you will find this handbook useful as you embark on your education journey in occupational therapy.

Sincerely,

The Occupational Therapy Faculty and Staff

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Division of Occupational Therapy Faculty

<p>Steven Wheeler, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA Professor and Chairperson swheeler@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-1065</p>	
<p>Diana Davis, PhD, OTR/L Associate Professor and Vice Chair OTD Program Director dmdavis@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-0584</p>	<p>Amy Kurowski-Burt, EdD, MOT, OTR/L Associate Professor MOT Program Director alburt@hsc.wvu.edu 304-581-1972</p>
<p>Amanda Acord-Vira, EdD, OTR/L Associate Professor sacordvira@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-6388</p>	<p>Heather Livengood, PhD, MOT Assistant Professor heather.livengood@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-7105</p>
<p>Brian Scaife, OTD, OTR/L Assistant Professor Academic Fieldwork Coordinator bscaife@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-0218</p>	<p>Brandon Seth Powers, MOT, OTR/L, CHT Assistant Professor Bpowers1@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-3600</p>
<p>SueAnn Woods, PhD, MOT, OTR/L, CHT Assistant Professor Doctoral Capstone Coordinator smuldrew@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-1953</p>	<p>Kayleigh Nolan, MOT, OTR/L Assistant Professor kayleigh.swanson@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-8828</p>
<p>Breanna Adkins, MOT, OTR/L Assistant Professor bhart4@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-1478</p>	<p>Jacob Greenfield, MOT, OTR/L Assistant Professor jgreenfi@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-0207</p>
<p>Carrie Smith-Bell, MOT, OTR/L Instructor cbell@hsc.wvu.edu 304-293-7105</p>	<p>Anne Cronin, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA Professor Emeritus acronin@hsc.wvu.edu</p>

Mission and Philosophy Statements

West Virginia University Mission

As a land-grant institution, the faculty, staff, and students at West Virginia University commit to creating a diverse and inclusive culture that advances education, healthcare, and prosperity for all by providing access and opportunity; by advancing high-impact research; and by leading transformation in West Virginia and the world through local, state, and global engagement.

West Virginia University School of Medicine Mission

The West Virginia University School of Medicine is a connected community of students, teachers, staff, practitioners and researchers who value health and wellness. We support a culture of purpose, accountability, honesty and gratitude that prepares our learners to be resilient and confident as they care for people, conduct research and transform lives.

West Virginia University Division of Occupational Therapy Mission

The West Virginia University Division of Occupational Therapy exists to educate current and future occupational therapy professionals on the power of occupation to foster effective solutions for maximal participation in everyday living, enhanced quality of life, and lifelong health and wellness for all people. We are committed to cultivating resilient, confident, and culturally aware professionals who promote the distinct value of occupational therapy with accountability, honesty, and purpose. Graduates from our program will be empowered to transform lives locally and globally through participation in scholarly activity, research, and service to the community.

WVU OT Program Philosophy of Learning

The philosophy of the West Virginia University (WVU) Division of Occupational Therapy (OT) integrates the core values and missions of West Virginia University and the West Virginia University School of Medicine with the basic tenets of occupational therapy education and practice. The Division offers two pathways of occupational therapy entry level education (OTD and MOT) with a shared philosophy grounded in the concept of occupation and the fundamental belief that human beings are complex, open systems who continuously evolve, adapt, and change through interactions with their human and non-human environments over their life course. Each person's unique personality

characteristics influence, and are influenced by, occupational performance, sociocultural influences, and contexts.

Occupation is the central component of occupational therapy, defined as “activities that bring meaning to the daily lives of individuals, families, and communities and enable them to participate in society” (AOTA, 2017b). Occupation defines occupation therapy’s unique contribution to health care and serves as both the means (a change agent) and the ultimate goal (engagement in occupations) of the occupational therapy process. In support of a strong professional identity, the occupational therapy program strives to develop experts in the use of occupation as a therapeutic method, who understand the complexity of human performance throughout the lifespan, and who appreciate the impact of societal participation on health, well-being, and quality of life.

Through participation in “meaningful” theoretical and occupation-based coursework, students gain knowledge about, and an appreciation of, the impact of occupation on health promotion and wellness, remediation or restoration, health maintenance, disease and injury prevention, and compensation and adaptation across the lifespan (AOTA, 2017b). The everyday activities that make up one’s “occupations” are ascribed value and meaning by each individual culture. By engaging individuals in meaningful occupations in a variety of contexts (i.e., cultural, physical, social, personal, temporal, spiritual, and virtual), occupational therapy practitioners affect human performance and the effects of disease and disability (AOTA, 2002; AOTA, 2008). The WVU occupational therapy programs recognize that all humans are occupational beings and that populations and individuals who experience occupational deprivation are at risk for physical and psychosocial disability.

The philosophy and education beliefs of both OTD and MOT programs are consistent with those of Mosey (1981) who identified that optimal conditions for learning as occurring:

1. In stages where information is understood, then practiced in different situations, then generalized and discriminated;
2. In an environment that allows repetition of that which is to be learned;
3. Along a continuum progressing from simple to more complex tasks;
4. When the learner understands the purpose and goal of the learning;
5. In an environment that encourages active engagement by the learner with regular reinforcement and feedback; and
6. In ecologically relevant contexts.

The programs embrace the belief that optimal learning occurs along a continuum, progressing

from simple to complex, and using a do, reflect, and apply spiral. Knowledge acquisition about occupation and occupational therapy theory is considered an essential part of the educational process, fostering the development of frames of reference and an understanding of practice models that guide professional decision making, clinical judgement, and the evolution of one's professional identity. However, it is through real and simulated learning tasks, utilizing participation in occupations that the student builds on existing knowledge to gain a more complete appreciation of the value of occupational engagement and its impact on successful and satisfying participation in life situations. Occupation based learning activities also foster higher levels of clinical competence through their ability to promote self-evaluation, self-awareness, and skill development through benefits of practice and repetition. Learning activities that are meaningful to the student support higher levels of participation and greatly enhance the learning experience of the student. Additionally, occupational therapists work on interprofessional teams and our students benefit from interprofessional collaborations throughout their learning experiences by interacting and learning with and from students and professionals at the Health Sciences Center, WVU, and the larger community.

Within its mission, the West Virginia University emphasizes diversity and inclusion, access, and opportunity. Through offering two pathways of entry-level occupational therapist preparation (OTD and MOT), The WVU Division of Occupational Therapy strives to meet the unique learning needs and career goals of students while being sensitive to financial and other barriers that may limit access to occupational therapy education. The programs emphasize experience-based learning in an inclusive environment that welcomes diversity, innovation, and freedom of intellectual inquiry. Consistent with the WVU School of Medicine's commitment to "transforming lives and eliminating health disparities" within the state of West Virginia, the Division of Occupational Therapy embraces experience-based educational and service-learning activities to foster community engagement and nurture each student's unique path to personal and professional growth. In this respect, participation in occupations, through experience-based learning activities, will influence the knowledge, skill, and professional development of the student in a manner reflective of its effect on the health and adaptation of the client during the occupational therapy process.

WVU's occupational therapy program faculty serve as expert educators and student-centered role models committed to quality in teaching, scholarly activity, and service while demonstrating professionalism, ethical behavior, and an appreciation for the value of diversity and inclusion. Through a shared appreciation of the complexity of human beings, program faculty support the unique

characteristics and professional goals of each student. Faculty-student collaboration occurs in a variety of forums including classroom, laboratory, clinic, community service, and research. These interactions, in conjunction with the varied contexts and diverse learning activities that constitute the overall educational experience, facilitates a recognition of the means by which the actions of the student can impact the health of individuals, communities, and populations at the local, state, national, and global level.

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Mosey, A. (1981). *Occupational Therapy: Configuration of a Profession*. Raven Press.

The West Virginia University Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) Program

Progression in the OTD Program

All aspects of the progression and graduation process for the OTD Program operate consistent with West Virginia University's commitment to non-discrimination, cultural diversity, and inclusion. The University does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity and expression in its programs and activities. The university does not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or retaliation on these bases and takes steps to ensure that students, employees, and third parties are not subject to a hostile environment in University programs or activities. Full description and contact information at: <https://diversity.wvu.edu/equity-assurance>.

OTD Program Criteria for Progression and Retention

Like many professional programs, the curriculum in the Occupational Therapy Doctorate program is fixed and intense. The first six semesters of the nine-semester program curriculum is graduate coursework combining on-campus and experiential / clinical instruction that facilitates the development of necessary knowledge, behaviors, and skills for success in occupational therapy clinical practice. During Semester 7, students will begin their first, full-time level II internship alongside a professional development seminar course. The eighth semester consists of courses on higher level graduate development and the second level II internship. During the ninth semester, students complete the capstone experiential. Given the full-time nature of the curriculum, it is recommended that students limit employment to less than 20 hours per week during non-level II fieldwork semesters (semesters 1 thru 6). During level II fieldwork experiences (semesters 7 and 8, which are both 12-week full-time internships) and the capstone experiential (semester 9), students are financially responsible for transportation, housing, and meal expenses related to clinical assignments. Due to the demands of occupational therapy fieldwork education, it is strongly recommended that students not participate in additional employment during level II fieldwork and the capstone experiential.

All students in the OTD Program must fully comply with the rules and regulations for academic and professional standards as set forth by West Virginia University and the West Virginia University Division of Occupational Therapy (see relevant policies in the OT Program Student Handbook): <http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/enrollmentandregistration/#probationsuspensiontext>

In addition, student progression in the OTD Program includes the following:

- A. Attendance at all on-campus, off-campus experiential learning (coursework and level I fieldwork), scheduled online and in person sessions, and level II fieldwork is **REQUIRED**. The entry level occupational therapy program focuses on skill development, competency evaluation, group work, guest lectures, oral presentations, level I fieldwork activities, access to WVU on-campus resources, face to face professional behavior advising, and research mentorship. Additional optional lab sessions are available at varying points during each semester and students are encouraged to attend. Students missing a scheduled class or instructional activity due to an emergency situation must notify the course instructor and OTD Program Director as soon as possible. In cases of extended absence where content cannot be made up, students may be required to withdraw from a course or courses. Make-up sessions for missed content is at the discretion of the instructor. Students repeatedly missing a scheduled class or instructional activities (including excessive tardiness) will be referred to the OT Academic and Professional Standards Committee and may be dismissed from the OT Program.
- B. Students must maintain a semester and overall OTD Program GPA of 3.0 or better throughout the OTD Program. In cases where a student falls below this level, the student will be required to meet with the OTD Program Academic and Professional Standards Committee and be placed on academic **probation** by the Program (see OTD Student Handbook for Policy and description of the OT Academic and Professional Standards Committee). The student will have one additional semester to raise the semester and overall OTD Program GPA to a 3.0 or above. Upon recommendation of the Academic and Professional Standards Committee, the OTD Program Director, and Division of OT Chairperson, a student may be required to complete additional learning or professional activities to address identified deficiencies. A student will be **dismissed** from the OTD program if they have two occupational therapy program semesters with an overall GPA below 3.0, regardless of whether the semesters are consecutive or not.
- C. A grade of C or better is required in all OTD undergraduate and graduate coursework. For all courses 500 and above, as per WVU policy, a grade of D cannot be counted towards graduate credit(http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advisingcoursesdegrees/advising_and_evaluation/#gradestext). Students receiving a grade below C may request the opportunity to retake the course. However, given the sequential nature of the curriculum, approval to retake a course will require ceased participation (**suspension**) in the OTD Program until the course is offered again in its

regular sequence (the following year). This will result in additional time to complete the OTD Program as well as all associated expense.

- D. A student who receives more than 1 grade below C **will be dismissed** from the OTD Program.
- E. The sequential nature of the OTD Program curriculum necessitates that all coursework be taken in sequence and on a full-time basis. Withdrawal from any one course equates to withdrawal from the OTD Program unless the student requests and is granted by the OTD Program Director and Division of OT Chairperson, an academic leave of absence. Students may take a maximum of one year of academic leave of absence then will require reapplication and readmission. (See OT Program Student Handbook for relevant policies)
- F. A student on Program probation for academic or professional reasons cannot progress to level II fieldwork.
- G. Students are expected to fully comply with all academic fieldwork requirements (level I and level II rotations), including Program and Fieldwork site rules and regulations. Due to the effort and time required to develop entry-level generalist competencies, any outside employment during level II fieldwork is strongly discouraged. Students cannot begin level II fieldwork until all prior curriculum coursework is completed.
- H. Students are required to maintain full-time University enrollment, including payment of tuition and College and Program fees. These fees can vary from year to year. ***The current Fee schedule can be reviewed at:***
 1. OTD Graduate Yearly Tuition and Estimate Cost Totals:
<https://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/students/tuition/occupational-therapy-undergraduate-and-graduate/>
 2. Yearly tuition rates reflected in the published fee schedule reflect fall and spring semester enrollment. Students should use “per term” rates to reflect the consecutive summer, fall, and spring semester OT Program enrollment.
 3. Textbooks will be required for all OTD courses and expenses associated with these are the responsibility of the student. WVU OT students participate in the WVU Health Sciences Center Notebook Computer Program. Related payment, financial aid, and software information is summarized in the offer of admission letter. Students are also required to maintain up to date CPR and First Aid Certification. Estimates of additional OTD Program costs can be found on our web site: <http://medicine.wvu.edu/ot/otd/cost-of-attendance/>

OTD Program fees are paid directly to the program, testing agency, background checking agency, or organization.

Division of Occupational Therapy Graduation / Program Completion

Students are responsible for ensuring that all administrative and academic requirements for graduation have been met. The Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) Degree is awarded upon completion of all required graduate work (typically the end of the third year / eighth semester in the OT Program). In addition, students must meet the following criteria:

- All graduate degree requirements must be completed in order to progress to level II fieldwork.
- Completion of all West Virginia University admission, retention, and graduation requirements as outlined in the West Virginia University Graduate Catalogue: <http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/>.
- Completion of all OTD required coursework, including 24 weeks of full-time fieldwork (minimum of 940 hours), community service hours (25 documented and approved hours through iServe), a completed research project, and completed capstone experiential, signed off by the student's faculty research advisor, OTD Program Director, and Division of OT Chairperson. All occupational therapy coursework counted towards the degree must be completed at West Virginia University.
- Maintenance of a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 with no OTD Program course (undergraduate or graduate) below a grade of C (unless that course has been successfully retaken).
- Completion of all paperwork requirements by WVU for graduation as well as payment of all fines and fees.
- Completion of all OTD Program requirements must be completed within 5 years, including Doctoral Capstone experiential. Students extending beyond that period will be required to reapply and, upon admission, retake all OTD coursework and fieldwork. Level II fieldwork must be completed within 18 months of the conclusion of didactic coursework (semester 6).

Expected Learning Outcomes WVU OTD Program

Practice Outcomes

- Graduates will be reflective, competent, creative, flexible, and resourceful occupational therapists.

- Graduates will have an understanding of the distinct value of occupational therapy’s unique role in promoting health, wellness, and quality of life at the individual, community, and population level.
- Graduates will be able to develop client-centered, evidence-based assessment plans and perform evaluations that reflect the Occupational Therapy Process and Domain.
- Graduates will be able to develop and implement client-centered, evidence-based, theory-driven interventions and discharge plans that reflect the Occupational Therapy Process and Domain.
- Graduates will be able to develop client-centered, evidence-based, theory-driven outcomes that reflect the Occupational Therapy Process and Domain.

Leadership & Advocacy

- Graduates will identify the leadership skills for engagement in professional advancement at the individual, group, and population level
- Graduates will demonstrate skills to communicate about the distinct value/role of occupational therapy across all practice areas.
- Graduates will advocate for occupational therapy with policy makers, third-party payers, regulatory boards, consumers, and colleagues.
- Graduates will be able to identify the effects of health disparities and occupational injustice in the health and occupational performance of their clients.

Scholarship & Ethics

- Graduates will be active consumers of knowledge becoming lifelong occupational therapy learners,
- Graduates will be able to critically appraise the ethical and practical aspects of client care, program development, and research.
 -
 - General Information
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Occupational Therapy Student Essential Skills and Requirements

Occupational therapists are health care professionals with expertise in the evaluation and treatment of the skills that support meaningful and satisfying participation in the “occupations” of self-care, work, and play. The West Virginia University (WVU) Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD)

degree program is a rigorous 9 semester program dedicated to preparing entry-level occupational therapy generalists for practice across all age groups in common practice settings, such as hospitals, schools, clinics, skilled nursing facilities, and home health as well as in emerging or non-traditional areas of practice such as community-based settings, industrial rehabilitation programs, primary care, and research. The physical, cognitive, psychological, emotional, and professional demands of occupational therapy practice are reflected in student expectations in WVU OTD program. Students must have the capacity to assess and analyze the occupational performance of clients, provide occupational based interventions, and effectively communicate with clients, families, members of the healthcare team, and other numerous other stakeholders in clinic settings, schools, and local community as well as across the state and nation.

Essential skills and requirements reflect the necessary knowledge, clinical skills and abilities, and interpersonal competence necessary to graduate as an occupational therapy entry-level generalist. Students must be able to perform the following tasks (with or without reasonable accommodation) safely, reliably, and efficiently in accordance with legal and ethical standards throughout their entire occupational therapy education at WVU:

- Attend class for up to 35 hours per week, and have the ability to sit and/or stand and maintain upright posture for several hours at a time.
- Have the intellectual skills to recall and comprehend large amounts of didactic information under time constraints and apply this information to the practice of occupational therapy.
- Utilize appropriate verbal, nonverbal, and written communication with clients, families, and others.
- Select, perform and document appropriate occupational therapy procedures used to assess the function of cognitive/mental/perceptual status, activities of daily living, behavior, social performance, functional capacity, ergonomics, vital signs, endurance, sensation, strength, tone, reflexes, movement patterns, coordination, ROM, balance, developmental stage, soft tissue, joint motion/play, pain, cranial and peripheral nerve function, posture, gait, functional abilities, assistive device fit/use, and the pulmonary system.
- Determine the occupational therapy needs of any client with perceived or potential movement, cognitive, perceptual, emotional, and/or psychosocial dysfunction.

- Develop and document a plan of care for a client with occupational performance deficits across the lifespan.
- Recognize the psychosocial impact of dysfunction and disability, and integrate the needs of the client and family when implementing the plan of care.
- Perform intervention procedures in a manner that is appropriate to the client's status and desired goals. These include, but are not limited to: skills training in basic and instrumental activities of daily living, group interventions, cognitive rehabilitation, exercise, developmental activities, balance training, coordination training, transfer training, orthotics fabrication, positioning techniques, and CPR.
- Possess the ability to manage a full client caseload and the ability to recognize and appropriately respond to emergency situations.
- Demonstrate ability to apply universal precautions.
- Participate in the process of scientific inquiry.
- Maintain composure and continue to perform duties with clients experiencing personal distress and demonstrating challenging behaviors and/or attitudes.
- Apply teaching/learning theories and methods in health care and community environments with the goal of health care promotion and prevention.
- Demonstrate management skills, including planning, organizing, supervising, delegating and working as a member of a multidisciplinary team.
- Develop responsibility for lifelong professional growth and development.
- Have competence in computer use sufficient for participation classroom and distance learning activities.
- Act in accordance with professional values, ethical standards, and appropriate demeanor essential for client-centered, quality client care.
- The above require students be able to perform, including with reasonable accommodation, the following: bending, carrying, climbing, grasping, heaving, lifting, pulling, pushing, reaching, sitting, crawling, sight, hearing, speaking, stooping, kneeling, use of hands, walking, and writing.

The OTD program at WVU welcomes all qualified Occupational Therapy applicants regardless of age, gender, heritage, ethnicity, race, religion, or disability. The Program acts in compliance with Section 504

of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, including changes made by the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008. Certain disabilities can interfere with a student's ability to complete the program of study and acquire the skills and requirements necessary for the practice of occupational therapy. A student who feels they have such a disability is required to register with WVU's Office of Accessibility Services. Additional information can be found at <https://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu>. Reasonable accommodations can be made to compensate for some, but potentially not all, limitations. Students should be aware that those that interfere with patient care, safety or require the use of an intermediary may be incompatible with independent professional practice. In accordance with the accreditation standards of the Accreditation Commission for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), the WVU OTD program has the prerogative and ultimate responsibility for selection and evaluation of its students, the design, implementation, and evaluation of its curriculum, and the determination of who is eligible to be awarded a degree.

Students accepted into the OTD program will be required to sign a form stating they are able to fulfill the essential skills and requirements on a yearly basis. Admission and retention decisions reflect both academic and non-academic factors, including ability to perform essential skills, requirements, and functions. A student who is unable to fulfill essential skills and requirements for occupational therapy students at WVU, as described above, may have their offer of admission withdrawn or be dismissed from the program if:

- He or she has requested and received a reasonable accommodation and is unable to meet program qualifications including the "Essential Skills and Requirements."
- The requested accommodation(s) would fundamentally alter the nature of the WVU OTD program, or
- The requested accommodation(s) would create a significant risk of harm to the health or safety of others.

Essential Functions for Fieldwork Education

Fieldwork is an important part of the OTD program. Throughout the curriculum, students are carefully placed to in a variety of settings to facilitate an appreciation of the scope of occupational therapy and foster a well-rounded, entry-level, educational experience. Students are responsible for all fieldwork related expenses including transportation, housing, meals, and related costs. For level I fieldwork, students may be required to drive up to 60 minutes from WVU's Medical Campus. Level II fieldwork sites have been established for WVU OTD students both within and outside the Morgantown area.

Students are matched with level II fieldwork sites (two separate twelve-week full-time internships) based on learning needs, student professional goals, availability of sites, and other factors as determined by the academic fieldwork coordinator in collaboration with the student. All students are responsible for the following:

- Ensure that immunizations, CPR certification, and health insurance are current.
- Completing education on infection control and prevention.
- Completing education on HIPAA/HITECH compliance.
- Completing drug screens upon request of the fieldwork site.
- Disclosing health conditions/disabilities to the WVU Accessibility Services Office and seeking accommodations for conditions that may impact fieldwork performance.
- Criminal background check results clear of felony convictions.

Applicants must complete the required criminal background check **following the offer of admission** but prior to enrollment. Additional background checks may be required at the request of the fieldwork site / agency. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) certification examination or to attain licensure as an occupational therapist.

References

Essential Functions, University of Cincinnati Master of Occupational Therapy Program.

Essential Functions, Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy, Sacred Heart University.

<http://www.sacredheart.edu/academics/collegeofhealthprofessions/academicprograms/occupationaltherapy/policies/essentialfunctions/>

Technical Standards for Occupational Therapy Students, The Ohio State University.

<https://hrs.osu.edu/~media/Files/HRS/Academics/Graduate-Programs/Doctorate-in-Occupational-Therapy/Program-Details/OT-Technical-Standards.pdf?la=en>

Occupational Therapy Fieldwork, Spalding University. <https://spalding.edu/occupational-therapy-fieldwork/>

WVU Occupational Therapy Student Essential Skills and Requirements Signature Form

Listed below are the essential skills, requirements, and functions that a student should possess in order to satisfactorily progress in WVU's OTD curriculum. A prospective student who is concerned that a disability may impact his or her ability to perform one or more of the following skills or requirements should contact the WVU Office of Accessibility Services at 304-293-6700 or online at <https://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu>.

- Attend class for up to 35 hours per week and have the ability to sit and/or stand and maintain upright posture for several hours at a time. Attend all scheduled on-campus sessions and fully participate in online lectures, activities, and assignments.
- Have the intellectual skills to recall and comprehend large amounts of didactic information under time constraints and apply this information to the practice of occupational therapy.
- Utilize appropriate verbal, nonverbal, and written communication with clients, families, and others.
- Select, perform and document appropriate occupational therapy procedures used to assess the function of cognitive/mental/perceptual status, activities of daily living, behavior, social performance, functional capacity, ergonomics, vital signs, endurance, sensation, strength, tone, reflexes, movement patterns, coordination, ROM, balance, developmental stage, soft tissue, joint motion/play, pain, cranial and peripheral nerve function, posture, gait, functional abilities, assistive device fit/use, and the pulmonary system. Determine the occupational therapy needs of any client with perceived or potential movement, cognitive, perceptual, emotional, and/or psychosocial dysfunction. Develop and document a plan of care for a client with occupational performance deficits across the lifespan.
- Recognize the psychosocial impact of dysfunction and disability and integrate the needs of the client and family when implementing the plan of care.
- Perform intervention procedures in a manner that is appropriate to the client's status and desired goals. These include, but are not limited to: skills training in basic and instrumental activities of daily living, group interventions, cognitive rehabilitation,

exercise, developmental activities, balance training, coordination training, transfer training, orthotics fabrication, positioning techniques, and CPR.

- Maintain a continuous physical presence with a client for a duration consistent with standard evaluation and intervention protocols and procedures.
- Possess the ability to manage a full client caseload and the ability to recognize and appropriately respond to emergency situations.
- Demonstrate ability to apply universal precautions.
- Participate in the process of scientific inquiry. Develop responsibility for lifelong professional growth and development.
- Maintain composure and continue to perform duties with clients experiencing personal distress and demonstrating challenging behaviors and/or attitudes.
- Apply teaching/learning theories and methods in health care and community environments with the goal of health care promotion and prevention.
- Demonstrate management skills, including planning, organizing, supervising, delegating and working as a member of a multidisciplinary team.
- Have competence in computer use sufficient for participation classroom and distance learning activities.
- Act in accordance with professional values, ethical standards, and appropriate demeanor essential for client-centered, quality client care.
- Comply with all fieldwork requirements including immunizations, background checks, drug screens, travel, site location assignment, and all fieldwork related expenses.

I verify that I have read and understand the essential skills and requirements for WVU OTD students and accept responsibility for ensuring compliance for the safety of myself, my clients, the OTD program, clinics and other stakeholders. I believe I am fully capable of meeting each of these functions.

Name: _____

Student ID: _____

(if applicable)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

WVU Division of Occupational Therapy Policies

Access to Classrooms and Laboratories

Students will be required to seek prior approval from the appropriate professor to gain access to labs and/or lab materials outside of scheduled class times. Regular “open lab” periods will be scheduled for all students each semester. When using the OT lab students are required keep the room clean and orderly, and to remove no materials from the lab area. Students given access to the lab outside of scheduled class times are expected to be sure that doors are locked when leaving. Failing to comply with these rules will be reported to your faculty advisor as demonstrating a lack of professional responsibility and may result in loss of access.

Announcements

Information pertinent to students is mainly announced via your MIX account email and/or SOLE course pages. You are expected to check this daily, including periods when you are off campus. You will also receive announcements, graded coursework, and other division-related items in your campus mailbox. Please check these regularly.

Appropriate Use of Information Systems

The WVU Division of OT has a social media/ networking policy for students. Failure to abide by this social media policy, while enrolled in the OT program, will result in referral to the Division of OT Academic and Professional Standards Committee for disciplinary action ranging from probation to dismissal from the OT program. Do note that this refers to after class hours, on weekends, and university breaks.

Faculty members should not be included on student mailing lists without the faculty member’s consent. Students are expected to use appropriate virus protection software to reduce chances of contracting/ spreading a computer virus. Additionally, students are expected to read and abide by the University’s Information Technology Services policies and procedures: <https://its.hsc.wvu.edu/policies/> . It is expected that when students must purchase computer software for coursework, each student will purchase his/ her own copy. This is in compliance with copyright laws.

Faculty Mailboxes

Faculty mailboxes are located in the copy room of the Faculty Office wing on the 8th floor. Students may place notes and assignments in these mailboxes. The Division of OT Chairperson and other administrative personnel (i.e., program assistant, academic advisor, etc.) mailboxes are located in Administrative Office Suite, room 8707

License and Student Activity

Students are not allowed to treat any medical problems or conditions of other students or family. Students should never provide treatment for medical problems without supervision from a certified and state licensed occupational therapist.

Lockers and Mailboxes

Each student will be assigned a locker on the 8th floor for storing personal belongings. The student will be responsible for purchasing a lock. Some students may have to share lockers. While it is not recommended, if you must switch lockers, please let the OT program assistant know prior to making the switch. Each student will also have a mailbox in the 8th floor hallway near the locker rooms.

OT Class Liaison

Each student cohort (by graduation year and program) will elect a class liaison who will serve as the spokesperson for the class to the faculty, other classes, and the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA). This position is a three-year term and will be voted on during the fall semester of the first academic year in the program by the students of the same cohort. This position will remain in effect until graduation of that individual class unless the officer is impeached. The *Class Liaison* is responsible for taking meeting minutes at class meetings, posting upcoming activities/events for their class and SOTA, and collecting money from their class for various fundraisers and dues. The liaison will need to put together a phone/address/email list and distribute it to the class and to the OT Program Administrative Assistant.

OT Faculty Advisors

Each student is assigned an occupational therapy faculty member as an advisor. The advisor may also serve the following roles: source for references, advocate to faculty or faculty committees,

professional behavior monitor, advisor for academic problems, address student concerns through identification of possible sources of assistance. The faculty advisor will be responsible for reviewing and maintaining communication on each student's professional behavioral reviews. Students are expected to meet with their advisor at least once a semester. Failure to schedule a meeting at the advisor's request is considered unprofessional and referral to the Academic and Professional Standards Committee for follow-up may occur.

Professional Organizations

Student membership in AOTA and SOTA is **required** while enrolled in the WVU OT Program. Students are required to be in good standing for SOTA (see SOTA Constitution for description) while an WVU OT student. Membership to your home state occupational therapy association, and particularly, to West Virginia Occupational Therapy Association (WVOTA) is recommended, but not required.

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

The American Occupational Therapy Association is a voluntary membership organization that represents occupational therapy with Congress, third party payers, and other key healthcare situations. Many of the resources AOTA offers to student members are very helpful in assisting in completing assignments throughout the program. AOTA student membership is required. The AOTA web page can be found at <http://www.aota.org>.

Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)

The purpose of this organization is to organize student events, educational activities, and community service projects supporting the Occupational Therapy Program at WVU. Students should be active members in good standing throughout their enrollment in the OT program.

SOTA Class Representative: The *Class Representative* is an officer position within the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA). This position is a three-year term and will be voted on during the fall semester of the first academic year in the program by the students of the same cohort. This position will remain in effect until graduation of that individual class unless the officer is impeached. A class officer will be required to abdicate his or her position should he or she be placed on probationary status or does not meet the requirements to be in good standing within the Student Occupational Therapy Association. He or she is responsible for attending SOTA officer meetings and may also call and run class meetings. The *Class Representative* is responsible for organizing and delegating activities and events for their class

such as a Buddy Night, pinning ceremony, and the Grad Send-Off. Additional activities and events may be assigned by the division or SOTA.

Additional officer positions are available within the Student Occupational Therapy Association. Please refer to the SOTA Constitution for more information regarding additional officer positions available.

State Occupational Therapy Associations

It is also recommended that students consider membership to West Virginia Occupational Therapy Association (WVOTA) (www.wvota.org) and/ or their home state occupational therapy organization (<https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/State-Policy/State-OT-Associations.aspx>). These are voluntary paid memberships with the organization that represents occupational therapists at the state level.

Student Employment

Work commitments are not acceptable reasons for missing academic requirements, even those course activities scheduled outside of regular class time.

Assessment and Grading

Student Assessment

The grading system for the Division of Occupational Therapy is consistent with that of the University system. Do note that the *establishment of grading scales for individual courses is at the discretion of each instructor*. Each grading scale is included in the course syllabus. See <http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/enrollmentandregistration/#gradestext> for University guidance on grading.

When lab practical assessments are given, students are responsible to disclose to the instructor any physical or medical condition that might make performing certain examinations and techniques inadvisable without modification. In no instance will a student be penalized if a physical or medical condition prevents them from performing certain examinations or treatment procedures. However, the student must comply with the ADA in terms of performing the examinations and techniques (i.e., handicapping conditions do not excuse the student from performing essential functions of occupational therapy). Reasonable accommodations may be implemented so that performance occurs.

Graduate Grading

At the graduate level, the Satisfactory (S)/ Unsatisfactory (U) grading option is used only for the course numbers 697/797 Research and OTH 540 / 640 (level II fieldwork). The "S" and "U" grades for 697/797 and OTH 540/640 are not applied to the calculation of the GPA. "S/U" shall be the only grading option for 697/797. Pass (P)/fail (F) grading is used in some competency-based courses in the OT curriculum. In these cases, the grade of P does not affect the student grade point average. However, any F grade affects a student's grade point average whether it is a regular grade or a pass/fail grade.

Incomplete Grades

In most cases an Incomplete (I) grade must be changed to a passing grade by the beginning of the next term of enrollment for the student to progress in the program. In the case of the Level I and Level II Fieldwork placements, incompletes will be resolved in partnership with the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and may require up to two semesters to resolve. Incompletes are only used in specific circumstances and require a detailed documented plan to complete the necessary work.

Exam Policy

Exams are scheduled by the course instructor and are listed in the course schedule. Final examinations will be scheduled during Finals Week at the end of each semester. Students will not be allowed to take Final exams early in order to leave campus early.

Attendance, Leave of Absences, and Withdrawals

Attendance

All courses are part of a professional education program, attendance is considered mandatory. Please see course syllabi for specific details of attendance expectations. Individual professors have the academic right to personalize this policy based on course expectations.

Generally, absence from classes and/or consistent tardiness constitutes unprofessional behavior. Students are expected to be in class and on time. Instructors may report a student who is regularly late or absent to his/her advisor. Students are required to email the course instructor when they are absent due to illness or other circumstance. Make-up work and exams are at the discretion of the course instructor. In

addition to attendance, students are expected to actively participate in all lab sessions.

Students will not be excused from classes immediately preceding and following holidays except under unusual circumstances and only by the OTD Program Director. Absence without approval before or after designated academic holidays, breaks, or end of semester may result in a referral to the Division of Occupational Therapy Academic and Professional Standards Committee.

Leave of Absence and Withdrawals

Students enrolled in the OTD may request special consideration, medical or emergency leave, etc., for short term leave of absence (LOA) from class attendance at any point during a semester.

On occasion, a student may experience academic difficulty, illness, or personal issues which prevent the student from completing the requirements of a specific course. A request for leave of absence must be submitted to the OTD Program Director in writing, within one week of the withdrawal and the leave cannot exceed one calendar year. The Division of OT Chairperson will also receive the request via the OTD Program Director. Program faculty will review the request and have the discretion, but are not required, to grant such leaves. In addition, the faculty may recommend that the student complete specified activities while on leave that will allow the student to be better prepared to resume full time studies upon their return. This may include, but is not limited to, additional coursework, tutoring, meeting with faculty, etc. Prior to their return, the student's academic record will be reviewed and, if courses which have already been completed are considered out of date, or if new requirements/competencies have been added to such courses, the faculty may stipulate that certain courses be taken or retaken to meet requirements.

A student may only be granted one leave of absence. If a student withdraws, they must withdraw from all courses in which they are enrolled. Students are not permitted to withdraw from a specific course and remain enrolled in other courses. Any student who withdraws from courses and is granted a leave of absence must repeat the courses the next time they are offered. Please note that OT courses are only offered once per year. Withdrawals initiated by the student, without Divisional approval, may result in the student being dismissed from the program.

A student who is in good academic standing and requests a leave of absence can be reinstated at the same course level if the leave is approved by the faculty and the student is reinstated within one year. Students who request a leave of absence related to academic performance issues will be required to

repeat the course(s) the next time the course is offered.

Before returning to the Program, the student must complete all additional requirements (as outlined above). Proof of compliance with these additional requirements must be submitted prior to resuming courses. The student must notify the OTD Program Director and Division of OT Chairperson in writing of his/her continued intention to return to the program by the date stated in the letter informing the student that the request for a leave of absence has been granted. In addition, the student is required to pay all fees required of incoming students by the stated deadline. A student who withdraws from any required occupational therapy course without requesting and/or receiving a leave of absence from the program will be dismissed from the program.

Leave Request Procedure

- The student initiates the request for LOA from the standard curriculum in writing to OTD Program Director with the starting date clearly identified.
- The Division of OT Chairperson will review the request, and will accept, reject or modify the request as indicated in collaboration with the OTD Program Director, responding to the student in writing.
- The student will meet with their campus Student Services registrar and the appropriate Director of Financial Assistance Services for required exit processing.
- The request for LOA will be presented at the next regular meeting of the Academic and Professional Standards Committee for review and recommended action on the terms of return to the curriculum. The Committee will specify the appropriate leave classification. Special meetings of the Committee may be called for such review upon the request of the OTD Program Director.

Any student requesting short term absence from attending courses on site must discuss the issue directly with the Academic and Professional Standards Committee, or in situations where the student is unable to present the reasons directly to the Committee, the student's advisor may present the information to be reviewed by the Committee. All requests for leave of absence will be reviewed by the Division of OT Academic and Professional Standards Committee with recommendations given to the OTD Program Director, who will then determine the terms under which the student may return to the curriculum.

There are several categories of leave of absence under which a student may petition for a recess from the curriculum:

Medical LOA

This type of LOA is reserved for acute medical problems of a physical or mental health nature affecting the student or a first degree relative requiring intense medical care. In order to return to the curriculum, the student will at the minimum require a release from the treating physician clearly stating that they are fit to return to the rigors of the standard OT degree curriculum.

Personal LOA

This type of LOA is used for reasons of a personal nature affecting the student's ability to be successful in the curriculum. These may include but not be limited to requests regarding family related issues.

Academic LOA

This type of LOA is reserved for students who desire a recess from the standard curriculum while currently failing in a course prior to the issue of a final evaluation in that course. Students should be aware that their ability to return to the curriculum may not be approved by the Academic and Professional Standards Committee based upon a complete review of the entire academic record. Should a student be permitted to return to the curriculum, the Committee will recommend to the OTD Program Director and the Division of OT Chairperson the status of the student upon returning (academic probation or in good academic and professional standing). Students who are not approved to return to the curriculum by the OTD Program Director and the Division of OT Chairperson may reapply for admission to the Division of Occupational Therapy.

Administrative LOA

This type of LOA is imposed by the OTD Program Director and the Division of OT Chairperson, as required by academic or professional deficiencies, such as failure to maintain the 3.0 GPA needed for advancement in the curriculum.

Leave within a single semester

A student may, upon recommendation by the Academic and Professional Standards Committee and approval by the OTD Program Director, receive a short-term leave of absence up to two weeks. Following the second week, a student may petition (directly or through their advisor) the Committee, and the OTD Program Director, for a third week of short-term leave. If approved, following that third week no extension will be granted by the OTD Program Director,

and the student will need to repeat the entire semester or year depending upon the situation. Short term leave of absence may not be granted more than once in an academic semester.

If a student is granted a short-term leave within a single semester, it is the student's responsibility to still complete all assignments, lab practical exams, group projects, exams, etc., as defined in each course syllabus. If a student is unable to satisfactorily complete these for all courses, then the Academic and Professional Standards Committee will review the situation and make recommendations to the OTD Program Director and Division of OT Chairperson regarding further action, which may include but not limited to such options as sitting back a year, repeating a semester.

If a student is unable to satisfactorily complete any course requirements, resulting in a non-passing grade, for any course that serves as a specific prerequisite for subsequent courses, the student may be required to repeat the course the following year, and consequently not be able to take the follow-up course.

Leave involving multiple semesters

A student may, upon recommendation by the Academic and Professional Standards Committee and approval by the OTD Program Director and the Division of OT Chairperson, receive a short-term leave of absence for one or two sequential academic semesters. Due to the nature of the curriculum, failure to complete a semester will result in the student returning to the curriculum the next time the needed course sequence is offered (mostly typically one year).

Following one calendar year, a student in need of more time in recess from the standard curriculum is officially withdrawn from the Division of Occupational Therapy. Students may reapply for admission through the Committee on Admissions, unless an extension is granted by the Academic and Professional Standards Committee because of special circumstances.

Students in the OT Program must successfully complete all didactic coursework, community service and all fieldwork within a period of five years after commencing the occupational therapy program. Furthermore, all Level II Fieldwork must be successfully completed within eighteen months following completion of academic coursework while remaining within the five-year time frame.

Death in the Family/ Sick Leave

Students who encounter extreme circumstances that necessitate short-term absence, such as a death in the family or hospitalization, should contact the OTD Program Director and the Office of

Campus and Community Life at 304-293-5611. The Office of Campus and Community Life will notify instructors of imminent absence in situations in which the student is unable to do so. Please note that the Office of Campus and Community Life does not “excuse” absences.

The general policy for excused days off for a death of immediate family members (i.e., parents, siblings, grandparents) is a maximum of 3 days. For all other instances the student must contact the OTD Program Director and may take 1 day off. The student must contact all current instructors prior to taking time off and make up any necessary coursework.

WVU OT Division General Policies

Community Service

All students are required to independently complete community service during the time enrolled in the Division of Occupational Therapy in order to be eligible for graduation. It is the student's responsibility to complete 25 hours (most effectively completing 5 hours per semester excluding semester 1, 7, 8, & 9).

Students are required to document these hours on the WVU iServe portal: <https://iserve.wvu.edu/>. The goal of this requirement is to foster civic responsibility, to enhance the hands-on learning experiences of the student, and to assist the student in identifying and meeting health and social needs of the community. Approved community service opportunities meet the following criteria:

- The volunteer may not be paid or compensated in any way during the placement.
- The service must be supervised and provided in a safe environment that promotes learning for the volunteer.
- Activities can be with a non-profit, public, faith-based or governmental organization. Service activities do not have to be OT related, nor organized by WVU.

During the three years of student matriculation in the Division of Occupational Therapy, students will automatically engage in at least 25 hours of program, fieldwork, interprofessional education and course-based community service projects. These projects are required as a component of the curriculum and are not considered part of the 25 hours of independent community service required. The Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) will offer various opportunities each semester.

Complaints and Grievances

Students in the WVU Occupational Therapy program can choose to deal with any complaint or grievance through the University or the Division of OT process. Guidance on handling student-teacher conflicts can be found at <https://well.wvu.edu/resources/relationships/student-teacher-conflict>. Formal complaints regarding harassment or discrimination can be filed at <https://diversity.wvu.edu/equity-assurance/title-ix/how-to-file-a-complaint>. Below is the Division of OT complaint and grievance policy that should be followed to resolve complaints that do not represent harassment or discrimination.

Issues with Instructors

If a student has a complaint with an instructor, it is recommended the student follow this sequence to present the concern:

- Discuss the problem with the instructor or instructors involved.
- If discussion with the instructor involved does not lead to resolution of the conflict or the student believes that discussion with the instructor will not be constructive, the student should discuss their concern with their faculty advisor or the OTD Program Director. The faculty member hearing the concern should document the concern in writing and confirm the written account with the student making the complaint. This written account will be shared with highest appropriate next level of review (Division of OT Chairperson).
- The Chair of the Division of Occupational Therapy will meet with the parties in question to advise and work toward resolution of the conflict. If this does not lead to the satisfactory resolution of the conflict the student will meet with the Vice Dean for Professional Programs in the School of Medicine. In cases of continued non-resolution, the student has two choices:
 1. Advance the complaint to an adhoc Grievance Committee composed of faculty from the Department of Human Performance (i.e., OT, PT, and Exercise Physiology). Students should notify administrator addressing the complaint if they wish to pursue this option.
 2. If the student presents their concern to the Grievance Committee and still feels the complaint has not been handled satisfactorily, they can then present their complaint to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, in the HSC Vice President's Office.

Graduate Assistantships outside the Division of OT

For each admissions OTD cohort, no more than two students may hold graduate assistantships offered by units outside the Division of Occupational Therapy. Division approval of these assistantships will be granted on a competitive basis. Work duties of students holding outside assistantships must not interfere with the student's class schedule while in the OT program. Clinical placements will not be contingent on outside assistantships.

Student Awards within the Division

In the graduate year, the faculty will nominate OTD students for awards. These awards will be based upon the cumulative performance and/ or behavior of the individual while in the occupational therapy program. The awards include, but are not limited to:

Excellence in Research

Awarded by the Division of OT Faculty to the student judged by the faculty as best conducting comprehensive and ethical research of exceptional quality that contributes to the profession of occupational therapy.

Innovation in Research

Awarded by the Division of OT Faculty to the student judged by the faculty as best conducting research that either enhances the understanding of emerging areas of occupational therapy practice or that contributes novel ideas or information to the profession of occupational therapy.

Liz Devereaux Leadership Award

Awarded by the Division of OT Faculty to the student that best demonstrates a pattern of advocacy for the profession of occupational therapy.

Mary Hager Award

Awarded by the Division of OT Faculty to the student that best demonstrates occupational therapy leadership to the state and on a national level as well.

OT Mountaineer Award

Awarded by the Division of OT Faculty to the student that best demonstrates a history of being a team player, constancy of effort, positive influence, and WVU school spirit while enrolled in the OT program.

Academic Achievement

Awarded by the Division of OT Faculty to the student that has achieved and maintained the highest GPA while enrolled in the OT program.

Community Outreach

Awarded by the Division of OT Faculty to the student that consistently demonstrates a commitment to local communities as noted through volunteering and service to others.

WVU OT Division Academic and Professional Standards

Professional behavior is vital to the success of each occupational therapy student, the WVU Division of Occupational Therapy, and the occupational therapy profession. On and off-campus behavior can affect professional and academic standing in the OTD Program and profession. Students in the Division of Occupational Therapy are expected to adhere to the university policies in the graduate and undergraduate handbooks. Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally in all aspects of the program. This includes responding promptly to faculty and administrative staff emails, complying with requirements to submit immunization records, background tests, screening for substance abuse reports and treating fellow students and the faculty member with respect.

Early in the academic program, each student will complete a self-assessment, *The Professional Behavior Standards of Performance Assessment*, and then meet with their faculty advisor to review the self-assessment. Considered professional behaviors include: responsibility, attendance, teamwork, emotional maturity, clinical reasoning, communication, and assertiveness. Near the end of the first semester, and then every semester through the curriculum, the student will meet with their advisor to review development of professional behaviors and development skill progression in this area. If necessary, your advisor will work with you to develop plans for improvement.

If a student's behavior interferes with the learning environment, the faculty advisor or course instructor will contact the student in person or via email to set up a time to meet with the student to discuss the situation to create a plan to correct the problem. Students should immediately report any violations of the professional behavior code that they witness to the Chair of the Academic and Professional Standards Committee, their faculty advisor, OTD Program Director, or the Division of OT Chairperson. Failure to report violations will be treated as a professional behavior violation and subject to review by the OT Academic and Professional Standards Committee.

Academic and Professional Standards Guidelines

The Division of Occupational Therapy Academic and Professional Standards Committee has been established for the purpose of evaluation and retention of occupational therapy students who fail to meet

performance standards in any of the following areas: academics, academic integrity, fieldwork education, or professional behavior. The Committee is comprised of three to four Occupational Therapy faculty members appointed by the Division of OT Chairperson. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the OTD Program Director and the Division of OT Chairperson. A quorum of three is needed to make a recommendation. The OTD Program Director, in collaboration with the Division of OT Chairperson, will review the recommendations of the Committee and make a final decision.

The Academic and Professional Standards Committee shall meet as needed to review the records of any student who fails to satisfy academic and/or professional standards. This includes grades (e.g. failure to maintain a 3.0 GPA or a grade of D or F or U in a fieldwork education course), academic dishonesty or inappropriate professional behavior. This Committee enforces the policies of the Division of Occupational Therapy, the School of Medicine, and the University. The Committee may also make recommendations regarding progression, remedial work to improve academic performance or professional behaviors, suspension or dismissal. Committee recommendations for probation, suspension, or dismissal from the Division of Occupational Therapy are based on a comprehensive review of a student's academic performance and professional behavior.

Academic and Professional Standards Procedures

The following procedures must be followed for the formal process of review of student status by the Academic and Professional Standards Committee:

- The faculty responsible for the course in which the student is not adhering to academic and professional standards must meet with the student and submit in writing to the Academic and Professional Standards Committee Chairperson a description of (a) the problem, (b) meeting date(s) with student, (c) course of action already taken, and (d) recommendations.
- In matters of academic dishonesty or professional misconduct, any party can initiate a concern in writing to the Academic and Professional Standards Committee, though matters of academic dishonesty will first be addressed by the University academic dishonesty process.
- The student may also submit in writing their arguments to the Committee Chairperson.
- The Committee Chairperson will then call a meeting of the Committee. If the student issue involves one of the Committee members such as the case of a student cheating in a course in which a Committee member is also the instructor, then that Committee member will not

participate in the recommendations made. The vacancy may be filled by another faculty member appointed by the Division of OT Chairperson.

- For its review the Academic and Professional Standards Committee will have access to the following: (a) letter grades (A, B, C, D, F, S, U, and I); (b) numerical or percentage grades on written, oral, and/or practical examinations; (c) written narrative evaluations submitted by the faculty which include performance descriptions; (d) oral and written reports about academic and professional performance; (e) oral and written reports about alleged violations of the Professional Behavior Standards; (f) any written information provided by the student regarding his or her performance; and (g) any testimony or other information which is considered necessary to complete the review.
- All deliberations of the Committee will be closed and confidential. One committee member or division staff member will be assigned to keep written minutes of the committee meetings which must be approved by all members who participate.
- At the discretion of the committee, a student under review may be invited for discussion of his or her academic deficiencies, professional misconduct or any extenuating circumstances that may have a bearing on the student's performance.
- The recommendations of the committee will be submitted to the OTD Program Director who may accept, modify, or reject the recommendations. The OTD Program Director will then inform the student of the decision and imposition of any penalties. Decisions regarding dismissal of the student will be reviewed and conveyed to the student by Division of OT Chairperson.
- In cases of academic dishonesty where there is admission of guilt by the student, at the discretion of the OTD Program Director and Division of OT Chairperson, the case may be satisfactorily resolved at the division level. The results of the case shall be reported to the Dean of the School of Medicine.
- If the student denies guilt or believes the penalty imposed is unjust, the Dean will be notified of the specifics of the case. The Dean or a designee will review the facts and evidence presented, and make a determination of the penalty or action, if any to be applied. The student has the right to appeal as outlined in the West Virginia Board of Governors Policy 15.
- In matter of grades, the OT Academic and Professional Standards Committee may

recommend change in grade, but only in cases of clearly established procedural error or arbitrariness in the evaluation.

- If any academic penalties are imposed because of failure to meet academic or professional behavior requirements the student has a right to: Written notice about failure to meet academic or professional behavior standards and potential penalties and a right to appeal the decision.

Academic and Professional Standards Policies and Expectations

Communication

As part of the WVU School of Medicine, the Division of Occupational Therapy is committed to elevate the school's national profile. With the goal of enhancing the image, identity and reputation of the Division of OT, students are expected to use professional email etiquette when communicating with WVU faculty and staff. In addition any email sent to community leaders that in any ways purports to represent WVU, the WVU School of Medicine, the WVU Division of OT, or a student group within WVU must be reviewed by the student's advisor or other designated faculty member before the email is sent. Failure to have emails that purport to represent WVU, the WVU School of Medicine, the WVU Division of OT, or a student group within WVU reviewed by the student's advisor or other designated faculty member before the email is sent will be considered a violation of professional behaviors, and will result in a review by the OT Program Academic and Professional Standards Committee.

Controlled Substances

The use of illegal drugs and/or alcohol while engaged in educational activities is strictly forbidden and may result in immediate dismissal from the OTD Program. This rule applies equally to all fieldwork sites the student attends while enrolled in the OTD program. Faculty and fieldwork supervisors reserve the right to require sobriety and/ or a drug test for any suspected use of a mind-altering substance. Any student whose drug screen results indicate the presence of a controlled substance will result in a review by the Division of Occupational Therapy Academic and Professional Standards Committee. Additionally, no OT student whose drug screen results indicate the presence of a controlled substance will be allowed to continue at a fieldwork site until a clean drug screen has been received from that student.

Lab Attire

Student lab attire must be worn as approved by the faculty. Lab attire *typically* consists of: t-shirt (WVU OT t-shirt or a plain, solid-colored or white, with no writing, etc.), stretchable (such as spandex shorts), sweat pants, athletic-type shoes, and socks.

On some occasions, laboratory classes will occupy the majority of the day. Thus, students will be permitted to wear lab clothing (t-shirts and long pants over shorts and halter-tops) during the noon hour or when lab classes are back-to-back. Students are advised to keep an extra set of clean lab clothes in their lockers so never to be unprepared for a scheduled or changed lab.

Lab attire for anatomy is scrubs (any shade of blue is recommended) with tennis shoes, hair pulled back, and minimal jewelry. See course syllabus for more detail.

Nametag

The nametag provided to each student upon entering the program must be worn in all clinical and classroom settings. If the nametag is lost, the student is responsible for replacement and all associated costs. Contact the OT Program Assistant to secure a replacement nametag.

Standards of Conduct

Students are required to comply with:

- the laws of the United States;
- the laws of the State of West Virginia;
- local city, county, and municipal ordinances;
- the policies, rules, and regulations of the West Virginia University Board of Governors, West Virginia University, and the School of Medicine;
- the lawful direction and orders of the officers, faculty, and staff of the University and the School of Medicine who are charged with the administration of institutional affairs.
- All OT students must submit several health forms and immunizations and complete a background check. Information pertaining to all required elements is sent via email to all students. Failure to submit documents as requested will be considered a professional behavior violation and will be referred to the Division of Occupational Therapy Academic and Professional Standards Committee.

Students must not engage in:

- disorderly conduct,
- theft or damage of property,
- disruption,
- unlawful discrimination,
- behavior or conduct adversely reflecting upon the occupational therapy profession or the School of Medicine.

Students engaging in prohibited conduct are subject to disciplinary action by the Division of Occupational Therapy and/or the School of Medicine. Because of the necessity to maintain public trust in the profession, students face disciplinary action by the Division of Occupational Therapy and/or the School of Medicine if they abuse alcohol or drugs, consume illegal drugs, or possess, distribute or sell drugs illegally.

***** A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) certification examination or to attain licensure as an occupational therapist.

Statement of Tolerance

The WVU Division of Occupational Therapy acknowledges and recognizes that there are many beliefs and practices within the practice of OT. Within classroom and fieldwork instruction, the student will be introduced to many alternative or diverse practices and beliefs that may differ from the student's personally held beliefs. This information is being presented for professional learning purposes and to encourage tolerance of multiple cultural systems. Tolerance is a basic tenant of the profession of occupational therapy and this educational program.

Student Supervision

OT students must be supervised by a licensed occupational therapist (OTR/L, OT/L) or occupational therapy assistant (COTA) any time the student is providing direct (hands-on) client care. Each state has different licensure laws governing the practice of Occupational Therapy and may provide more stringent guidelines than those outlined here. In such cases, state law supersedes Division or University governance, and must be adhered to by all parties. In addition, certain payers (e.g. Medicare) may have specific restrictions regarding student supervision.

Professional Appearance

Policy: As an OTD student in a professional program, appropriate attire and grooming is expected at all times in the classroom, lab, community, and clinical settings. Students are expected to abide by the Occupational Therapy dress code and to wear nametags during all scheduled class times and activities.

Purpose: Neatness, cleanliness, personal dress, conduct and appearance are an essential part of occupational therapy for patient safety and professionalism.

Procedure: Clothing should be of correct size and fit, allow comfortable movement, and should not have offensive language, excessive skin exposure, and exposed undergarments (upper and lower). Clothing should not be a distraction to others. Clothing must be neat, clean, stain free, and wrinkle free. Business casual is required for all class, community, and fieldwork activities, unless otherwise specified by a supervisor or instructor. Business casual is slacks or pants; cropped pants that are below the knee; skirts or dresses of modest length; collared shirt, blouse, or sweaters; blazer, jacket, or sports coat; and hard soled shoes. Tops and bottoms should be worn to prevent undergarments from showing with movement, leaning, and reaching. Any clothing that exposes student's shoulders, midriff, chest, or thighs, (more than 2" above the knee) will be considered unacceptable. Clothes should cover all of these areas (including undergarments) when the students are involved in any activities in the classroom/ fieldwork- ***regardless of body position or task***. Determination of what is appropriate (per the dress code) is at the discretion of the faculty or fieldwork educator. Students may also be required to appropriately wear and maintain personal protective equipment (PPE). Different professors may require different dress expectations due to differences in class-related activities.

Other important professional appearance guidelines for infection control and safety of self, classmates, professors, and patients are:

1. Hair should be neat and clean, and pulled back with simple hair accessories (if able) to avoid contact with others and supplies. Extremes in dying, bleaching, coloring, and styling are not permitted.
2. Beards and mustaches must be short, clean, and well groomed.
3. Nails should be natural and clean, and no longer than a quarter inch past the end of the fingers. No artificial nails or extenders. Ensure that nail polish, if worn is free of chips and

cracks.

4. Body piercings should be modest and are acceptable for ears and nose. Piercings should be studs for safety of self and others. Wearing other jewelry, such as rings, necklaces, pins, and other adornments, should be assessed for safety and infection control considerations. For clinical and community experiences, it is requested for nose piercings to be replaced with a clear stud.
5. Visible tattoos can be left uncovered if small and not offensive to others. Large tattoos or offensive language or art should be kept covered during interactions with others during lab activities, community programs, interprofessional activities, and patient care. These can be covered with clothing or bandage supplies.
6. Cologne, perfume, lotion, and aftershave are not recommended as many are sensitive to them. The odor of smoke is not permitted.
7. Necessary daily hygiene practice for haircare, bathing, body odor, and dental care should be completed. Hygiene that is supportive of a shared learning and patient care environment is required.
8. Footwear should be clean, in good condition and considered based on the activities you are completing. The best footwear is closed heel and closed toe, leather or vinyl, and worn with foot coverings (i.e., socks or hosiery).

For fieldwork rotations or any scheduled educational activity in a clinical setting or simulation experience, students are required to conform to the dress codes of the setting. If no dress code is presented the attire is WVU OT polo shirt and khaki or tan dress slacks (no jeans) with clean closed toe and closed heel shoes. In general, clothes worn in clinical settings should follow the guidelines listed previously. Keep in mind, fashion trends may not be appropriate clinical wear. Clinical sites may send a student home is dressed unprofessionally.

Students are expected to abide by the following dress code during classes and official OT functions unless otherwise indicated by OT faculty. Repeated violations with dress code compliance will result in progressive disciplinary action, such as, but not limited to verbal/ written warnings, loss of points in a course, being sent home to change from class or fieldwork, referral to the WVU OT Academic and Professional Standards Committee, and/ or disciplinary action. Cultural exceptions should be

discussed with the OTD Program Director.

Dress Down Days

Students may propose occasional “dress down” days during which blue jeans (no sweats, spandex, or leggings) and WVU t-shirts may be worn. These days will be planned in advance and approved by the Division of OT Chairperson. Although there is flexibility of the dress code on these days, students are still expected to present themselves in a manner that positively represents the WVU OTD program. It is expected that students will still attend to their overall appearance and hygiene. Jeans should be clean and without holes. Any student with a presentation, scheduled clinical time, or interprofessional activities must dress as described for those experiences and is NOT to “dress down” with the rest of the class.

Division of Occupational Therapy Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal Policies and Procedures

Probation Policy and Procedures

Students failing to meet academic standards or suspected of academic dishonesty will be reviewed by the Division of Occupational Therapy Academic and Professional Standards Committee and following this review recommendations regarding remediation & probation, suspension or dismissal will be made to the OTD Program Director, and Division of OT Chairperson.

The imposition of probationary status will be accompanied by remedial actions and performance requirements specified by the OTD Program Director based on recommendations of the Academic and Professional Standards Committee. This action is intended to remedy the academic or professional deficiencies that resulted in the probation. Successful conclusion of the remedial work is considered a pre-requisite to terminate the probationary status.

Probationary status will be assigned automatically in cases where a student’s occupational therapy program GPA falls below 3.0. Failure to achieve a GPA of 3.0 or to meet any terms of the probationary status by the semester following the probation for a GPA below 3.0 will result in suspension or dismissal from the program.

Probationary status can only be assigned for a maximum of two non-consecutive semesters throughout the student’s entire matriculation in the program. If a third probation is assigned, the student will be dismissed from the program. It is possible for a student to be placed on probation, meet the terms

of the probation by the following semester, be placed on probation again during a subsequent semester and meet the terms again by the following semester. However, no further probationary periods will be allowed and students on academic probation, cannot participate on level II fieldwork.

Remedial interventions are designed to fit particular deficiencies and may, among others, take one or more of these forms: a specific study or reading program, additional practice in a set of clinical skills, assignment to clinical rotations, and repetition of all or part of the program. When a student is placed on probation, remediation must be completed by the end of the following semester. If a student is placed on probation at the end of one semester, but then meets the terms of probation during the following semester, probation will be rescinded. However, failure to achieve a GPA of 3.0 by the semester following the probation will result in suspension or dismissal from the program.

Fieldwork education rotations are scored with Satisfactory (S)/Unsatisfactory (U) Grading. Grades of “U” earned in fieldwork education rotations do apply to the student’s GPA. A “U” as determined by the Division of OT Academic Fieldwork Coordinator in consultation with the student’s clinical instructor(s) is considered to be deficient in any clinical rotation and that student may be suspended or dismissed from the OT program. Probationary status with the opportunity to repeat will be granted one time only. If a student fails more than one clinical rotation, dismissal from the program will be imposed.

Suspension Policy and Procedures

OT students may be suspended from their program by the OTD Program Director, Division of OT Chairperson or by the Dean by failing to maintain acceptable grades in their courses, by failing to show acceptable performance in other areas such as scholarship progress or professional behavior (as determined by the OT Division), or by failing to meet the terms of probation. Suspension from a program normally follows a probation sanction. Suspension from the occupational therapy program does not suspend you from the university. Students who are suspended from the Division of Occupational Therapy may continue to take WVU classes and, if desired, may transfer to another program within the University if they meet the program's admission requirements.

Suspension for up to one year may be recommended by the Academic and Professional Standards Committee for any case of:

- a grade of “D”, “F” or “U”;
- an overall GPA of 3.0 or less for two consecutive semesters;

- unsatisfactory evaluations which indicate gaps in knowledge and skills and/or inadequate integration of the content of the curriculum;
 - failure to assume appropriate professional behavior following faculty advisement;
 - excessive unexcused absenteeism;
 - repeated or multiple infractions of professional behavior.
4. Should a student receive a D or an F, in any semester, but still have a cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher, the penalty of suspension will be granted with the possibility of reinstatement upon meeting the terms of the suspension. If a student is suspended for a second time while enrolled in the occupational therapy degree program, automatic dismissal will result.
 5. Should the Academic and Professional Behaviors Committee conclude that temporary, personal problems are the reason for deficiencies and/or violations, the Committee may recommend to the OTD Program Director and the Division of OT Chairperson that the student be suspended from the Occupational Therapy Program for not more than one year. The student may have stipulations imposed (such as taking another course not in the professional sequence) that must be successfully completed during the suspension period.

A student who is suspended from the OT program will not be permitted to register for classes to progress in the OT professional education sequence until the student has been notified that the suspension sanction has been lifted. With instructor consent, the suspended student may take OT independent study classes.

Upon expiration of the period of suspension, the student must petition the OTD Program Director for reinstatement in writing. The student will be reinstated to the Occupational Therapy Doctorate program contingent upon successful petition demonstrating that the problems which produced the suspension have been resolved and any terms or conditions imposed at the time of the suspension have been met. The student may be required to repeat all or portions of the curriculum following reinstatement.

Dismissal from the Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program

Student progression through the occupational therapy program is outlined in the criteria for progression and retention. Additional reasons for dismissal from the program include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A student who has withdrawn, with an approved leave of absence, returns and then withdraws a second time.
- A student who achieves acceptable academic standing but, is unable to demonstrate expected professional behaviors.
- A student who is unable to meet the essential program functions.
- Violation of the West Virginia University Student Code of Conduct.

A student who fails to submit required documentation within program timelines is also, upon a recommendation from the Academic and Professional Standards Committee, subject to dismissal. A student has the right to appeal a dismissal decision. See Appeal Policy and Procedure in this handbook.

Anyone dismissed from the Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program may re-apply for admission to any WVU Division of OT program. Re-admission will be determined by the Admissions Committee utilizing all admissions criteria and is a competitive process. The Committee will also take into consideration the reason for the dismissal. Faculty must also approve, by a majority vote, readmission.

Penalties and Appeals

Students may appeal any final grade, charge of academic dishonesty, or academic penalty (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/enrollmentandregistration/#appealstext>) imposed by a course instructor/coordinator, the institution, or its constituent academic units through the procedures described in this section of the catalog with the following exceptions:

- Grades for individual course assignments cannot be appealed except in the context of a final grade appeal or a charge of academic dishonesty.
- University, college/school, or program probation based on failure to meet minimum GPA standards may not be appealed.
- Disciplinary penalties imposed by the Office of Student Conduct, including but not limited to probation, suspension, or expulsion from the university, may not be appealed through this process. Refer to the Campus Student Code for procedures to appeal disciplinary penalties, including those for academic dishonesty.
- The primary purpose of the appeal procedure is to allow review of a final grade, charge of academic dishonesty, or academic penalty in cases where a student believes that due process was not followed or that the grade, charge, or penalty was imposed

unfairly or inconsistently with course, program, and university standards and regulations.

- Students are expected to present written grounds (typically via email) for an appeal. Students have the right to appeal a final grade, charge of academic dishonesty, or academic penalty that they believe reflects a capricious, arbitrary, or prejudiced academic evaluation, or reflects discrimination based on criteria listed in BOG Governance Rule 1.6, Section 1.2. Additional grounds for appeal may include: unreasonable severity of the penalty; demonstrable prejudice in the decision-making process; a belief that the evidence does not support the finding of responsibility (in the case of academic dishonesty) or the choice of penalty; or additional evidence or new information that was not considered in determining the penalty.
- If a student does not appeal a final grade, charge of academic dishonesty, or academic penalty, fails to follow the appeal procedures described below, or does not attend a scheduled meeting regarding the appeal, the final grade, charge of academic dishonesty, or academic penalty will be upheld, regardless of whether or not the student is still enrolled in the course or program.

Academic Dishonesty: Penalties and Appeals

The term “academic dishonesty” means plagiarism; cheating and dishonest practices in connection with examinations, papers, and/or projects; and forgery, misrepresentation, or fraud as it relates to academic or educational matters. For full WVU policy:

<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecredittermsclassification/#definitionsandtypesofacademicpenalties>

- “Plagiarism” means the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment, including, but not limited to, the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another individual.
- “Cheating and dishonest practices in connection with examinations, papers, and/or projects” include, but are not limited to, (a) giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or any other assignment for a grade; (b) depending upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor or

supervisor in quizzes, tests, examinations, writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (c) the acquisition or use, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff; and (d) engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.

- “Forgery, misrepresentation, or fraud as it relates to academic or educational matters” includes, but is not limited to, (a) wrongfully altering, or causing to be altered, any records; (b) use of University documents or instruments of identification with the intent to defraud; (c) presenting false data or information or intentionally misrepresenting records; (d) furnishing the results of research projects or experiments for the inclusion in another’s work without proper citation; or (e) furnishing false statements in any University academic proceeding; and (f) providing false or misleading information to gain an academic advantage.

A student at West Virginia University who engages in academic dishonesty will be subject to one or more of the following academic penalties (see the previous section for full descriptions of those penalties that can also be imposed for failure to meet academic requirements or standards):

- Course-level academic penalties. When academic dishonesty occurs within the context of a course (including individually supervised courses), the course instructor/coordinator has the option of imposing the following academic penalties, including but not limited to:
 - Change in assignment or test grade.
 - A lower final grade, including failure of a course.
 - A final grade of unforgivable failure (UF). The UF penalty can be recommended by the course instructor/coordinator but must be reported to the appropriate office by the dean of the college or school offering the course after the time limit for a student appeal has expired or the appeal process has been completed, upholding the UF penalty. The student may repeat the course, but the undergraduate D/F repeat process will not be applied to the UF.
 - Required repetition or revision of the assignment or test.
 - Exclusion from further participation in class, including laboratories or clinical experiences.
 - Other course resolutions within the discretion of the course instructor/coordinator.

- Other academic penalties. If academic dishonesty occurs either in a course or within the context of program requirements, the academic penalties below may be imposed.
- Required repetition or revision of a program requirement, or termination of the student's participation in specific program-related activities. When academic dishonesty occurs within the context of program requirements and expectations not associated with a specific course (including, but not limited to, completing qualifying exams, conducting research, performing duties associated with a graduate assistantship, performing required service or professional activities, etc.), the student's program director, supervisor, or chair of an appropriate committee may impose these or similar academic penalties.
- Failure of a program requirement or failure to meet academic standards.
- Academic probation or suspension at the program, college, or school level for failure to meet program requirements and academic standards.
- Dismissal from a program, college, school, or the university.

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Academic Standards: Penalties and Appeals

It is the student's responsibility to fulfill coursework and degree or certificate requirements and to know and meet criteria for satisfactory academic progress and completion of the program. Students are expected to adhere to academic requirements and standards in all academic settings, such as classrooms, laboratories, and clinics, and during any activities that are part of academic requirements. Further, WVU students are citizens of a broader academic community. As such, the University expects that every member of its academic community share its historic and traditional commitment to honesty, integrity, and the search for truth and academic penalties related to this are presented at

<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecredittermsclassification/#definitionsandtypesofacademicpenalties>. Occupational Therapy students at West Virginia University who fails to meet academic requirements or standards will be subject to one or more of the following academic penalties:

- A lower final grade, including failure of a course. A lower grade or failure of the course can be imposed by the course instructor/coordinator. If a student appeals a final grade, the grade shall remain in effect until the appeal is completed.
- Exclusion of a student from further participation in class prior to any appeal proceedings requires that the course instructor/coordinator obtain approval of the dean of the college or school offering

the course.

- Required repetition or revision of a program requirement, or termination of the student's participation in specific program-related activities.
- Failure of a program requirement or failure to meet academic standards. Program requirements and standards must be described in the catalog or other program documents provided or available to students. Program requirements may include such items as passing a qualifying exam, maintaining progress on research, developing required technical skills, providing timely documentation of immunizations, or meeting professional standards of conduct (including the avoidance of academic dishonesty).
- Academic probation or suspension at the program, college, or school level for failure to meet program requirements and academic standards, or at the university level for failure to meet grade point average standards.
- Dismissal from a program, college, school or the university. Dismissal is defined as termination of student status, including any right or privilege to receive some benefit or recognition or certification. A student may be academically dismissed from any program and remain eligible to enroll in courses in other programs at the institution, or a student may be academically dismissed from the institution and not remain eligible to enroll in other courses or programs at the institution, including other divisional campuses (BOG Academics Rule 2.5).
 - If a student appeals a penalty of program dismissal, the dean of the college or school offering the student's program will determine if the student shall be allowed to continue in the program, and the conditions of that continuation, until the case is determined. Dismissal from a program, college, or school must be communicated to the Associate Provost for Undergraduate or Graduate Academic Affairs, the Health Sciences Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, or the divisional campus President once the time limit for a student appeal has expired or the appeal process has been completed. The Associate Provost, Associate Vice President, or divisional campus President submits a request to the appropriate office to change the student's status to non-degree. Academic dismissal from the university requires consultation and approval from the student's dean, the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs (Health Sciences students only), and the Provost's or divisional campus President's Office.

Professional Behavior: Penalties and Appeals

The term “professionalism” refers to: patterns of respect shown to others; work habits such as time management and stress management; self-reflection; civility in interactions with others; membership and participation in professional organizations; appropriate dress and mannerisms; altruism; personal accountability; honor; and integrity. An occupational therapy student at West Virginia University who demonstrates poor professional behavior will be subject to one or more of the following academic penalties (see the previous section for full descriptions of those penalties that can also be imposed for failure to meet academic requirements or standards):

- Course-level professional behavior penalties. When professional behavior violations occur within the context of a course (including individually supervised courses), the course instructor/coordinator has the option of imposing the following academic penalties, including but not limited to:
 - Change in assignment or test grade.
 - A lower final grade, including failure of a course.
 - Required repetition or revision of the assignment or test.
 - Exclusion from further participation in class, including laboratories or clinical experiences.
 - Required repetition or revision of a program requirement, or termination of the student’s participation in specific program-related activities.
 - Professional behavior probation or suspension at the program, college, or school level for failure to meet program requirements.
 - Dismissal from a program, college, school, or the university.

Fieldwork Education Policies

Clinical education opportunities are provided throughout the curriculum and include both inter-professional and intra-professional experiences for Level I and Level II rotations. The fieldwork program reflects the sequence and scope of content in the curriculum design, including fieldwork experiences in traditional, nontraditional, and emerging settings to strengthen the ties between didactic and fieldwork education. Participation in any clinical experience is contingent upon successful completion of the current and previous didactic clinical work. Specific information regarding fieldwork policies can be found in the *OT Student Fieldwork Manual*.

University Policies

Policies presented here include those that are at the institutional level and exist in the WVU Catalog. Students are responsible for reviewing and understanding these policies. The most current versions of the university policies are available at: <https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements>

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

The policies described in this section are based on the Board of Governors Academics Rule 2.5, Student Rights and Responsibilities for West Virginia University.

SECTION 1: PURPOSE & SCOPE.

1.1. This Rule sets forth the understanding that students at West Virginia University are entitled to certain academic rights and, in exchange, students shall fulfill certain academic responsibilities.

1.2. This Rule applies to all students at West Virginia University, including West Virginia University Institute of Technology and Potomac State College of West Virginia University.

SECTION 2: STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

2.1. Each student, by voluntarily accepting admission to the University or enrolling in a class or course of study offered by the University, accepts the academic requirements and criteria of the University. It is each student's responsibility to independently fulfill course work and degree or certificate requirements and to know and meet criteria for satisfactory academic progress and completion of the degree program.

2.2 Each student shall conduct themselves in a manner which is fair, honest and consistent with the principles of academic integrity, particularly when undertaking coursework and research.

SECTION 3: STUDENT RIGHTS.

3.1 The Provost shall ensure that each student is entitled to the following academic rights:

3.1.1 Access to the Catalog. Each student shall have access to the college or university catalog or program brochure in which current academic program requirements are described (e.g., required courses, total credit requirements, time in residence requirements, special program requirements, minimum grade point average, probation standards, professional standards, etc.).

3.1.2 Class Syllabi. During the first week of classes, students have the right to receive from each instructor a syllabus with descriptions of content and requirements for any course in which the Student is enrolled (e.g., attendance expectations, special requirements, laboratory requirements including time,

field trips and costs, grading standards and procedures, professional standards, etc.).

3.1.3 Feedback on Assignments.

3.1.3.1 Each student shall have the right to receive feedback on assignments in a timely manner, generally within ten (10) consecutive University instructional days of the instructor's receipt of the work.

3.1.3.2 Each student shall be graded or have his or her performance evaluated solely upon performance in the course work as measured against established academic standards. Students shall not be evaluated prejudicially, capriciously, or arbitrarily. Each student shall have the right to appeal a final grade assigned in accordance with the policy and process of the college that offers the course.

3.1.4 Posted Grades.

3.1.4.1 Undergraduate Courses. During regular terms (fall and spring), students who are enrolled in Undergraduate Courses have the right to, at the minimum, a full range of grades posted mid-semester and final grades. All such grades shall be assigned by the course instructor. During all other terms, students have the right to, at the minimum, a posted final grade assigned by the course instructor.

3.1.4.1.1 Mid-semester grades may not always represent fifty (50%) completion of a particular course; rather, the instructor shall determine the meaning and value of a mid-semester grade for the course and shall explain the meaning and value in the course syllabus.

3.1.4.2 Graduate Courses. Students who are enrolled in Graduate Courses have the right to a posted final grade assigned by the course instructor.

3.1.5 Academic Integrity. The Provost shall provide clear guidance and assistance to students to ensure that they understand the requirement to maintain academic integrity and are aware that failure to maintain academic integrity constitutes academic dishonesty. The Provost shall administer a fair and consistent system for defining and responding to academic dishonesty, including establishing a range of outcomes for students determined to have committed academic dishonesty.

Attendance Guidelines

Attendance policies at West Virginia University are set at the course level. There is no University- or College-level authority in charge of "excusing" absences. However, there are two University offices with roles referenced in the policy and guidelines below:

1. The Provost or her/his designee may designate an activity as an "Authorized University Activity." Such designation is normally limited to scholarly competitions, fine arts performances, and intercollegiate athletics competitions in which students are representing West Virginia University. Information regarding students participating in an Authorized

University Activity will be communicated to faculty via an official letter or e-mail from a University official (such as the faculty member or unit that is sponsoring the event) and will be posted on a website with a list of Authorized University Activities with the dates.

2. Emergency military service and jury duty are treated in the same way as Authorized University Activities. See <https://talentandculture.wvu.edu/files/d/23747548-ea03-4f07-ade2-4501b175d1f4/military-leave.pdf> for more information.

Academic Integrity Statement

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, instructors will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of their courses. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please click [here](#). Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see your instructor before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Academic Standards Policy, including Academic Dishonesty

The WVU Catalog contains the full [Undergraduate Academic Standards Policy](#) and [Graduate Academic and Professional Standards Policy](#).

Appropriate Use of Technology Statement

Use of technology in the classroom should always be directly related to class activities and/or course learning outcomes. Inappropriate use of technology in the classroom may be considered a disruption of the class and constitute a violation of the [WVU Student Conduct Code](#) and could potentially result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct. Use of technology in the classroom when specifically prohibited by the instructor may also constitute a violation of WVU's [Academic Integrity](#) policy.

Inclusivity Statement

The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. If you

are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in your classes, please advise your instructors and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services. (<https://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/>) More information is also available at the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (<https://diversity.wvu.edu/>).

Sexual Misconduct Statement

West Virginia University does not tolerate sexual misconduct, including harassment, stalking, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or relationship violence [BOG Rule 1.6]. It is important for you to know that there are resources available if you or someone you know needs assistance. You may speak to a member of university administration, faculty, or staff; keep in mind that they have an obligation to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator. (<https://diversity.wvu.edu/equity-assurance/title-ix>)

If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the Carruth Center, 304-293-9355 or 304-293-4431 (24-hour hotline), and locally within the community at the Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center (RDVIC), 304-292-5100 or 304-292-4431 (24-hour hotline). For more information, please consult these two websites for additional information: <https://diversity.wvu.edu/equity-assurance/resources-and-reporting-options>; <https://diversity.wvu.edu/equity-assurance/resources-and-reporting-options/resources>

Student Support Services

Financial Aid

A Financial Aid Office is located in room G111 (north ground floor) of the Health Sciences Center (304-293-3706). Students interested in work-study positions at either the Health Sciences Center or Ruby Memorial Hospital will need to qualify through the Financial Aid Office.

<https://financialaid.wvu.edu/students/professional-hsc>

HSC ITS/Help Desk

The Help Desk provides resources for common hardware and software problems, staff that can respond to questions, downloadable files for the HSC user, and student internet connection options. Any difficulties with the laptops issued via the School of Medicine mandatory laptop lease program should be taken to the computer help desk (2nd floor, HSS 2356; <https://its.hsc.wvu.edu/help-desk/>).

HSC Library

The Health Sciences Center (HSC) Library has a wide range of services to support the education process. Library hours, services, collections, and on-line literature searches can all be accessed through the library web site (<https://lib.wvu.edu/healthsciences/>). The library also maintains a list of resources for each OT course throughout the curriculum (<https://libguides.wvu.edu/OT>). The library's Teaching and Learning Workshops (<https://library.wvu.edu/research-help/workshops>) offers a number of free open-enrollment software workshops and a wide variety of specialized workshops for students to help you gain computer skills.

Mental Health

College students commonly experience issues that may interfere with academic success. Stress, sleep problems, relationship and social concerns, adjustment to college, financial problems, family issues, discrimination, or anxiety and depression all affect one's ability to remember, learn, and perform. If you or a friend is struggling, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Supportive, confidential resources are available on campus, and most are at no-charge. The BeWell office is the counseling hub for all HSC students. BeWell offers confidential, short term individual and group counseling, consultations, and various other mental health services. You can schedule an appointment with BeWell by emailing bevell@hscu.wvu.edu or the BeWell Coordinator, Layne.kehl@mail.wvu.edu. You can also schedule by calling 304-293-2660 or 304-293-3111. Feel free to visit BeWell's website for more information: <https://hsc.wvu.edu/be-well/>

BeWell is an extension of WVU's main counseling center. Please note that if you or a friend is experiencing a psychological emergency or a more urgent situation, the Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services at WVU provides crisis consultation and counseling during normal business hours (8:15-4:45) as well as after hours. You can access these services by calling 304-293-4431. Crisis services are also available through text: Text WVU to 741741 for support 24/7 from a trained crisis counselor. For more mental health resources and information, visit the CCPPS website at: <https://carruth.wvu.edu/>

Below are other resources for you to have on hand:

Service	Website and Info	Location	Number
Counseling and Psychological Services – Carruth Center	https://carruth.wvu.edu/services We provide a variety of services for a wide range of student concerns. This includes individual, group counseling, couples counseling and drug or alcohol counseling.	Health and Education Building 390 Birch Street	(304) 293-4431
Psychiatry and Psychological Services – Carruth Center	https://carruth.wvu.edu/services/psychiatry Our psychiatry staff offers outpatient evaluation and treatment for problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, and attention deficit disorder.	Health and Education Building 390 Birch Street	(304) 293-4431
Student Wellness – WELLWVU	https://well.wvu.edu/ Delivers comprehensive wellness education to all WVU students. Programs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alcohol and drug prevention - Sexual health - Stress Management - Nutrition and Exercise - Sleep 	Health and Education Building 390 Birch Street	(304) 293-5054
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (will triage to a local provider/crisis line)	https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/ Calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline will connect you immediately to a crisis worker, who will triage you to a local crisis worker.	All of the U.S.	1-800-273-8825
Crisis Text Line	https://www.crisistextline.org/	All of the	Text HELP

	A trained crisis worker will assist you in working through your immediate needs related to mental health or other crises.	U.S.	to 741741
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Student Success Coaches

WVU Student Success Coaches work individually with students to enhance their academic success in time management, note taking, reading, and study skills. The coaches will also assist in the transition to WVU by answering questions and providing information about campus resources. A personal meeting with one of our Success Coaches is best way to help you get and stay on track academically. Success coaches can help you design strategies tailored to your specific academic situation and explore options you had not previously considered. Students typically meet with a coach based upon the time of year or issues that emerge in their academic lives. To schedule a success coaching appointment call 304-293-5804 or fill out the linked form [Appointment Request Form](#)