The University of Minnesota Program in Occupational Therapy
Minimum Technical Standards

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation. In adhering to this policy, the University abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Minnesota Human Rights Act and other applicable statutes and regulations relating to equality of opportunity. The University's mission is to provide optimal educational opportunities for all students, including those with disabilities. Students are responsible for seeking assistance at the University and making their needs known. The Office of Disability Services (DS) is provided by the University of Minnesota to promote access, by ensuring the rights of students with disabilities and assisting the University in meeting its obligations under federal and state statutes. For further information, visit http://ds.umn.edu/.

The Program in Occupational Therapy requires students to engage in diverse, complex and specific experiences essential to the function of an occupational therapist assuring best practices to protect patient safety. The student must be able to participate in these experiences safely and within an acceptable amount of time. Unique combinations of cognitive, affective, psychomotor, physical, and social abilities are required to satisfactorily perform these functions throughout the curriculum including all clinical rotations.

Candidates for the Program in Occupational Therapy must meet the technical standards necessary to acquire or demonstrate competence in occupational therapy as outlined in this document with or without reasonable accommodation.

Motor Skills General: The candidate should have sufficient motor functions such that they are able to execute movements required to provide general care and treatment to clients in all health care settings.
Specific:

- It is required that a candidate possess the motor skills necessary for assessment and therapeutic procedures in a variety of positions and settings.
- Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional uses of senses within the context of provision of treatment (such as fabrication of splints or custom orthotics).
- The candidate must be able to perform basic life support (including CPR), transfer and position clients and position and re-position self around clients.

Sensory/Observation General: The candidate must be able to acquire a defined level of information presented through demonstration and experience in the rehabilitative sciences.
Specific:

- Candidate must be able to observe the client accurately, at a distance and close at hand, and observe and appreciate all levels of information including non-verbal communications such as vision, hearing and somatic sensation, when performing assessment and intervention.
- Candidate must be able to learn to perform visual and tactile examinations and treatments to differentiate subtle variations in color, shape and general appearance.
- Candidate must also possess the visual acuity to read or view various forms of documentation including records, charts, print and handwritten notation.
**Communication** General: The candidate must have the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with other students, faculty, staff, clients, family and other professionals.

Specific:
- Candidate must be able to express his or her ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback.
- The candidate must be able to convey or exchange information at a level allowing development of a health history, identify problems presented, explain alternative solutions, and give directions during treatment and post-treatment.
- The candidate must be able to effectively communicate in English in oral, written and electronic forms and to retrieve information from literature, computerized databases and lectures.
- Candidate must be able to process and communicate information on the client’s status with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the health care team.
- The appropriate communication may also rely on the candidate’s ability to make a correct judgment seeking supervision and consultation in a timely manner.

**Cognitive** General: The candidate must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information at a level commensurate with a Masters level education.

Specific:
- Due to the nature of a hybrid curriculum, the candidate must be able to self-organize his/her time, independently manage multifaceted demands and schedules.
- The candidate must be able to effectively maneuver within and problem solve while working in an online context.
- The candidate must be able to quickly read and comprehend extensive written materials.
- Candidate must also be able to evaluate and apply information and engage in critical thinking in the classroom, lab and clinical setting all in a timely manner.
- Candidate must be able to synthesize the information in the development of an effective treatment plan.

**Behavioral/Emotional** General: The candidate must possess the emotional health required for the utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of clients and families.

Specific:
- The candidate must be able to maintain mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with clients, students, faculty, staff and other professionals under all circumstances, including highly stressful situations.
- Candidate must have the emotional stability to function effectively under stress and to adapt to an environment that may change rapidly without warning and/or in unpredictable ways.
- The candidate must be able to balance their individual learning needs with the professional standard of protecting the safety of patients in all health care delivery environments.
- The candidate must be able to experience empathy for the situations and circumstances of others and effectively communicate that empathy regardless of age, gender, race, socioeconomic status, and disability status, religious or cultural background.
- Candidate must know that his or her values, attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and experiences affect his or her perceptions and relationships with others. The candidate must possess skills and experience necessary for effective and harmonious relationships in diverse academic and work environments.
- The candidate must possess the ability to reason morally and practice in an ethical manner in accordance with professional, legal and cultural standards of practice.
• Candidate must possess attributes that include compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility and tolerance.
• Candidate must have the appropriate social skills for forming and maintaining mature relationships with a variety of people in a variety of settings.

Upon acceptance into the University of Minnesota’s Program in Occupational Therapy the candidate will be responsible for verifying that they understand and meet the technical standards as outlined in this document.

Any occupational therapy student applicant or currently enrolled occupational therapy students with questions about whether they can meet these technical standards due to the functional limitations from a disability should contact a disability specialist from the Disability Services Office for a confidential consultation.

Disability Services can be contacted at:

**Twin-Cities:**
Disability Services  
University of Minnesota Twin Cities  
McNamara Alumni Center  
200 Oak St SE Suite 180  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Phone: (612) 626-1333 (V/TTY)  
Fax: (612) 626-9654  
www.ds.umn.edu (**http://www.ds.umn.edu/**)

**Rochester Campus**

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Approved by the Office of the General Counsel and the Disabilities Services Office 11/1/11.