

**PARKLAND COLLEGE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS**



**PARKLAND  
COLLEGE**

Students matriculating in and graduating from a Parkland College Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) health career program must be able to meet the Essential Qualifications of the academic program and must not pose a threat to the well-being of patients, other students, staff, or themselves. As an incoming OTA student you will need, at a minimum, the following types of skills and abilities and will need to maintain and demonstrate these abilities throughout the program.

**Students are encouraged to discuss their specific academic needs with the course instructor/program director prior to beginning a course of study. Consultation between Accessibility Services, the student and the program director are encouraged in order to address concerns.**

Essential Qualifications	Behaviors
Cognitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in decision-making and problem-solving for use in clinical reasoning and safe practice</li> <li>• Effectively use a variety of teaching/learning methods and strategies in both individual and collaborative learning situations</li> <li>• Access, evaluate, and use a variety of information resources such as library services, electronic catalogs, databases, in an efficient, ethical and legal manner.</li> <li>• Locates, evaluates, and utilizes evidence-based practice for effective implementation of therapeutic interventions.</li> </ul>
Affective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respectful of individuals and their cultural values and beliefs.</li> <li>• Collaborates effectively with colleagues and other professionals.</li> <li>• Demonstrates OT Core Values, to include altruism, equality, freedom, justice, dignity, truth, and prudence.</li> </ul>
Psychomotor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize fine skilled movements to perform or demonstrate therapeutic interventions</li> <li>• Ability to move a person to different positions or surfaces safely</li> <li>• Walk and stand for prolonged periods of time (up to 4 hours at a time).</li> <li>• Ability to assume multiple positions (such as kneeling or crawling) during therapeutic intervention</li> </ul>
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize English written and spoken language skills for effective communication with individuals in all health care professions, clients, family members and care providers.</li> <li>• Utilize basic computer, word processing, electronic communication and on-line course skills on a regular basis</li> <li>• Educate clients, colleagues, and the public about the purposes and benefits of occupational therapy.</li> </ul>
Sensory/Observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functional visual abilities (with correction, as needed) sufficient to closely observe one or more persons at a 10 foot distance, and closely monitor facial expressions, skin coloration, muscular tension, and detailed workmanship.</li> <li>• Functional auditory acuity (with correction, as needed) sufficient to comprehend one or more persons engaged in conversation, and to hear monitoring, communication and safety device signals.</li> <li>• Spatial reasoning abilities sufficient to plan and implement modifications of tools, materials and the environment, and to observe human movement.</li> <li>• Effectively attend to multiple features of a task, personal interaction, and/or group to include ability to selectively focus and attend to key features, use divided and alternating attention between two or more features, in a quick, safe manner.</li> </ul>
Behavioral/Emotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adapt effectively to fluctuations in emotional and physical stress levels to include ability to maintain composure in moderate to high levels of stress in emergency situations.</li> <li>• Ability to maintain stable emotional and physical health throughout the duration of the program and in subsequent practice.</li> </ul>

Professional Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organize concepts, schedule, materials, and work space</li><li>• Organize, attend to and engage in multi-tasking in academic and client services in a timely and safe manner.</li><li>• Utilize effective work ethic skills to include attendance, punctuality, positive work attitude, respect, cooperation, teamwork, professional manners, productivity appropriate to course and job role requirements and to work with persons with diverse backgrounds.</li><li>• Access transportation to attend classes and clinical internship sites in a timely manner</li><li>• Conducts self in compliance with OT Code of Ethics</li></ul>
Criminal Background Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No disqualifying conditions according to the IDPH healthcare worker background check act by deadlines on admission and throughout the program.</li><li>• No positive drug screen or clearance by the Medical Review Officer.</li></ul>

If you have any concerns regarding these standards, please email [healthrecord@parkland.edu](mailto:healthrecord@parkland.edu).

Updated 10/2021