Occupational Therapy Assistant Technical Standards

Purpose Statement:

Technical Standards are nonacademic abilities and characteristics established to meet the essential functions of the selected program of study. This resource is provided to all potential applicants to facilitate the making of an informed decision about a program of study and future career. To better understand the nonacademic expectations of this program of study, the specific technical standards are provided below.

In the case of a qualified individual with a documented disability, appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be made unless to do so would fundamentally alter the essential instructional and training elements, cause undue hardship, or compromise safety in the classroom, lab, clinical, and/or field environment.

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
Critical Thinking / Problem-Solving Skills	Ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information sufficient for clinical judgment.	● Identify cause and effect relationships in clinical situations. ● Assess risks and provide for patient safety. ● Make effective decisions quickly.
Interpersonal Skills	Appropriate interpersonal interaction sufficient to work collaboratively with	● Establish rapport with clients, families, and colleagues.

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
	the healthcare team, patients and families from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.	• Respect the dignity and rights of all individuals during all interactions.
Communication Skills	Communicate effectively using English verbal and non-verbal formats with the multidisciplinary team, patients, and families to ensure accurate clinical assessment and equipment monitoring.	• Communicate appropriately with other students, faculty, and staff at SCC and with other professionals, patients and staff in a clinical setting. • Document and interpret actions and client responses as well as treatment procedures in a clear, professional, and timely manner. • Use computer to document patient information and clinical findings.
Mobility	Physical abilities are sufficient to move in one's environment.	• Move around in client rooms, bathrooms, and treatment areas. • Move patients from bed to chair. • Retrieve needed items from high places, move items from floor to waist height or higher, and use, move, and manipulate medical equipment. Stand, squat, reach above head, lift, push, pull • Manage at least 50 lbs to move and use heavy durable medical equipment (DME), like wheelchairs or power lifts.

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective patient care.	- Manipulate tools. - Fabricate orthotics and adaptive devices - Adjust and fine-tune tools for client care and use. - Assist clients in using manipulatives.
Physical Strength and Stamina	Sufficient physical endurance to participate fully in the clinical and academic settings at an appropriate level.	- Stand and be mobile for up to 8 hours - Move patients and equipment.
Sensory • **Sight** • **Sound** • **Touch**	Sufficient sensory ability to monitor and assess health needs.	- Monitor and observe client responses to treatment. - Monitor safety warning signals on equipment. - Perform palpation such as in manual muscle testing and vitals.
Behavioral / Emotional Skills	Present self in a professional manner, demonstrating integrity, accountability, and reliability; function effectively under pressure, showing an ability to adapt to	- Abide by American Occupational Therapy Association Code of Ethics. - Function under stress and deal with patients and others who may be experiencing stress. - Adapt to changing environments and schedules. - Receive corrective feedback calmly.

Standard	Definition of Standard	Example(s) of Technical Standard as applied in Program
	stressful or rapidly changing situations.	
Environmental / Occupational Exposure	Demonstrate the clinical reasoning necessary to identify physical, chemical, and biological hazards within various environments (e.g., home, hospital, or workplace).	• Work in areas that are close, crowded, and/or noisy. • Carry out job skills in an infectious and hazardous environment. • Use personal protective equipment to prevent the spread of pathogens. • Clean therapy areas using appropriate chemicals.

Please note: Examples are not all-inclusive.

Accessibility & Accommodations:

It is SCC's goal to create a learning environment that is accessible and inclusive. **If a student has a question as to their ability to meet the minimal technical standards listed above, they should contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator to determine if the standard can be met with accommodations.** To learn more about resources available to you, schedule a consultation or appointment, and/or establish accommodations that may be needed based on impact of a disability, please contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator at accessibility@southwesterncc.edu or 828.339.4326 (Balsam Center, Room 129A).

Signature of Understanding:

Form updated 3/23/2026

I have received a personal copy of the program specific technical standards. I was provided the opportunity to address any questions or concerns. I understand that these are enforceable, nonacademic standards required for the program of study and I certify that I have the ability to meet the technical standards of the program of study.

_____   _____   _____
Student name (printed)   Student Signature   Date