

***Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program  
Technical Standards***

A candidate for the Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree at Slippery Rock University must demonstrate the ability to acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to complete the core educational requirements and national accreditation standards. The following abilities and characteristics, defined as technical standards, are requirements for admission, retention, advancement through program, and graduation.

The technical standards are **not intended to deter** any candidate from applying, for whom reasonable accommodation will allow the successful completion of the program. All students are asked to attest to their ability to meet the technical standards on a yearly basis as part of affirming they have reviewed the updated standards if applicable in the student manual. In addition, should a student's status change, the student is required to update their attestation as soon as possible and notify the program director of such change.

**Observation:** Students should be able to obtain information from demonstrations and audiovisual presentations for assessment techniques and therapeutic interventions. Students should be able to assess a client, evaluate findings accurately, and develop and implement an appropriate treatment plan. These skills require the use of vision, hearing, and touch or the functional equivalent.

**Communication:** Students should be able to communicate with other individuals or populations in order to elicit information, detect and succinctly and effectively document changes in affect and physical functioning. Students must be able to perceive and appropriately respond to others in order to establish a therapeutic relationship and to effectively communicate in person and in writing via the English language. Students must be able to establish rapport and maintain sensitive, interpersonal relationships with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.

**Motor:** Students should, after a defined period of time, possess the capacity to perform a comprehensive occupational therapy evaluation that includes clinical assessments and objective measures requiring a variety of physical performance skills. Students should be able to execute all motor movements with the strength and dexterity required to appropriately assess and treat clients consistent with currently accepted standards of practice. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, balance, and equilibrium sufficient to safely provide this level of care and physically assist others in their tasks of daily living to include tasks such as functional transfers and repositioning.

**Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative:** Students should be able to assimilate detailed and complex information presented in both didactic and clinical coursework and engage in problem solving at levels necessary to habilitate developmental delays and rehabilitate conditions and impairments that impact successful performance of occupational roles using a holistic and client-centered approach across the lifespan.

As such, all students must be able to measure, calculate, analyze, and synthesize subjective and objective data, comprehend three-dimensional relationships, and understand the spatial relationships of structures to make clinically informed decisions about client care through the thoughtful deliberation and integration of all these elements, with the knowledge of the foundational biomedical, psychosocial, and clinical sciences. Students must be able to read and search peer-reviewed literature independently and apply findings to effectively maximize successful engagement in roles and daily activities using evidence-based approaches. In addition, students should be able to adapt to different learning environments and modalities.

**Social and Behavioral:** Students must exhibit sufficient maturity and emotional stability to enable full utilization of their intellectual abilities, which includes, but is not limited to, the exercise of good judgment and the prompt completion of responsibilities associated with the evaluation and treatment of clients and populations. Students must exhibit integrity, honesty, professionalism, compassion, and are expected to display a spirit of cooperation and teamwork. Students should be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. They should be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the treatment of medically complex individuals. Students must accept responsibility for their learning and exercising good judgment. Additionally, students are expected to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments, accept constructive feedback from others, and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes.

**Ethics and professionalism:** Students should maintain and display ethical and moral behaviors commensurate with the role of an occupational therapist in all interactions including physical and virtual platforms with clients, faculty, staff, fellow students, and the public. The student is expected to understand the legal and ethical aspects of the occupational therapy profession always including scope of practice and function within the law and ethical standards of the profession.

All students must meet the technical standards delineated above with or without accommodation. The Slippery Rock University Doctor of Occupational Therapy program recognizes the value that comes from a learning diverse student body, including students with disabilities. Students who, after review of the technical standards determine that they require accommodation to fully engage in the program, should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) to confidentially discuss their accommodations needs. All requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Given the clinical nature of the program, additional time may be needed to implement accommodations. Accommodations are never retroactive; therefore, timely requests are essential.

Office of Disability Services (ODS)

724-738-4877

<https://www.sru.edu/offices/students-with-disabilities-office-for>

My signature below indicates that I have read, understand and am currently (check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ able to meet the requirements of the SRU OTD Program Technical Standards  
without accommodation

\_\_\_\_\_ able to meet the requirements of the SRU OTD Program Technical Standards with  
accommodation\*

( \* *Documentation must be gained from the Office of Disability Services*)

\_\_\_\_\_ unable to meet the requirements of the SRU OTD Program Technical Standards  
with or without accommodations.

If my status changes at any time, I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to contact the Office  
of Disability Services, update this acknowledgement, and submit to the program secretary.

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*Student Signature*

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*Date*