



Essential Minimal Skills for Santa Ana College OTA Students

Santa Ana College OTA Students are required to exhibit behaviors, skills, and abilities that align with the legal and ethical standards established by the AOTA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. OTA students must be able to meet these minimum standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, for successful completion of OTA degree requirements.

The following list of essential skills is not all-inclusive, and fieldwork sites may have additional technical standards and essential job functions. If a student cannot demonstrate the following skills and abilities, it is their responsibility to request appropriate accommodation.

To progress successfully through the program, OTA Students must have:

Skills and Abilities		Initials
Attend in-person classes to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate professional and ethical behaviors. • Demonstrate the ability to collaborate and work with other OTA students on projects, assignments, and presentations while sharing the workload. • Demonstrate the ability to cooperate, interact with, and relate to other people beyond giving and receiving instructions. • Participate through role-playing as a patient/client or practitioner during class activities and simulations requiring hands-on, close contact experiences. 	
Functional use of vision (with needed correction) to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe facial expression at a 10-foot distance. • Read printed materials such as a chart or calibrations. • Use information received directly from lectures, laboratory demonstrations/activities, and observations in projects, assignments, and presentations related to assessments, intervention planning, and other classroom activities. • Safely perceive and navigate varied environments and communities. 	
Functional use of hearing (with needed correction) to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear safety devices. • Hear a normal tone of voice. • Use information received directly from lectures, laboratory demonstrations/activities, and observations in projects, assignments, and presentations related to assessments, intervention planning, and other classroom activities. • Safely perceive and navigate varied environments and communities. 	
Sufficient motor ability to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the stamina and endurance necessary to stand, lift, bend, kneel, crouch, reach, and perform repetitive motions for extended periods. • Ability to assist patients with mobility, transfers, and positioning, including lifting and supporting individuals with varying degrees of physical impairments. • Safely perceive and navigate varied environments and communities. • Grasp, manipulate, and handle tools and equipment. • Move efficiently and in a timely manner to safely and competently meet the needs of clients. • Maintain balance from any position. • Adjust personal posture, mobility, coordination, strength, and energy for engagement in the therapeutic process. • Maneuver in small areas • Perform manual dexterity tasks sufficient to complete lab/class activities 	

Effective communication skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impart and elicit information verbally and in writing. • Recognize and respond to non-verbal communication. • Demonstrate non-verbal behaviors that communicate interest, empathy, and engagement. • Respond appropriately to feedback. 	
Sufficient cognitive skills to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a safe environment. • Effectively attend to tasks and persons • Demonstrate sound judgment when utilizing clinical reasoning, problem solving, and decision making. • Ability to utilize technology for coursework and fieldwork documentation. • Organization strategies that enable the student to be available to complete fieldwork 	
Commitment to learning and work ethic that includes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attends all classes/labs/fieldwork as scheduled. • Reliability, time management, regular attendance, and punctuality. • Compliance with a dress code. • Completing readings, assignments, and other activities outside of class hours. • Demonstrates initiative, motivation, and enthusiasm related to course requirements. • Ability to prioritize tasks and manage time efficiently to complete all classwork without evidence of cheating or plagiarism. • Arranging for regular, reliable transportation up to 60 miles one way to attend fieldwork 	
Emotional regulation & coping that enable the student to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain composure in emergency situations. • Maintain ethical and professional behaviors. • Tolerate exposure to disability, illness, pain, and death. • Ability to self-regulate and be flexible in changing or stressful conditions and fast-paced environments. • Prioritize emotional and mental well-being through self-care and stress management strategies. 	

If I determine that I am unable to meet any of these skills, at any time while enrolled in the SAC OTA program, I must provide a note from my healthcare provider indicating the specific limitations and length of time for which I will require modifications. I understand that this documentation can be submitted to the SAC OTA Program or Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS).

If I need academic accommodation, I will make an appointment with DSPS, located in Johnson Student Center, JSC-108.

I understand that it is my responsibility to contact the SAC OTA Program if I have any questions or concerns regarding my ability to perform these essential functions. Failure to submit the required documentation may result in delays in my progression within the SAC OTA Program or dismissal from the program.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received, understood, and agree to adhere to the Essential Minimal Skills for Santa Ana College OTA Students. I understand that IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY to read this document and determine my ability to meet these criteria.

Student Name (Print):	
Student Signature:	Date: