



Statement of Inherent Requirements

Faculty	Health
Disciplines	Occupational Therapy
Courses	Undergraduate Course Bachelor of Occupational Therapy [373JA] Postgraduate Courses Master of Occupational Therapy [132JA]

Ethical Behaviour

Inherent Requirement

- Behave ethically and professionally in academic and professional environments, complying with relevant standards and codes of ethics applicable to the profession.

Rationale

- Compliance with relevant professional standards and/or codes of conduct, and commonly accepted standards of professional behaviour facilitates safe, competent interactions and relationships for students and the people they engage with in all contexts. This supports the physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of all.

Related Professional Requirements: Occupational Therapy Australia's '[Australian Minimum Competency Standards for New Graduate Occupational Therapists](#)' and '[Occupational Therapy Australia Code of Ethics](#)'.

Examples

- Apply ethical behaviour in the management of confidential and sensitive personal information.
- Reflect on ethical dilemmas and issues, and take responsibility for ensuring awareness of ethical behaviour.
- Operate within own role and responsibilities in the clinical setting.

Legal Compliance

Inherent Requirement

- Comply with Australian Law, professional regulations and/or scope of practice relevant to the profession.

Rationale

- Knowledge, understanding and compliance with Australian Law and professional regulations facilitates effective, professional, responsible and accountable occupational therapists, and is necessary to work

effectively and meet professional registration requirements.

Related Professional Requirements: [Privacy Act 1988](#), [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(ACT\)](#), [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency \(AHPRA\)](#)

Examples

- Comply with the requirements for student registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), and policies of clinical facilities (e.g. Work Health and Safety Act and uniform requirements).
- Obtain informed consent prior to assessment and intervention in the clinical setting.
- Prepare and provide documentation according to legal requirements and accepted procedures and standards.

Communication Skills

1. Expressive Communication Skills

Inherent Requirement

- Ability to communicate effectively, in English, to a standard that allows clear, scholarly, and professional-level messages and text with language use and style appropriate to the audience.

Rationale

- Communication skills are an essential requirement to develop and maintain trusting relationships, and to perform effectively in an academic and complex professional environment, as well as solve problems and communicate knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter effectively.

Examples

- Construct coherent written communication to an academic and professional standard as appropriate to the circumstances.
- Advocate for the needs of others and facilitate behavioural change and self-management in others.
- Constructing patient notes, reports and information sheets in a timely manner that meets legal and professional standards.
- Communicate with service users and colleagues in a respectful way that acknowledges different values and beliefs.

2. Receptive Language Skills

Inherent Requirement

- Ability to assess concepts and meaning in English, using knowledge of language, background knowledge, critical thinking skills, and self-reflection.

Rationale

- Communication skills are an essential requirement to develop and maintain trusting relationships, and to perform effectively in an academic and complex professional environment, as well as solve problems and communicate knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter effectively.

Examples

- Be able to receive feedback and act upon it in an appropriate way.

- Ability to understand service users and colleagues and be able to act upon this in an appropriate way.

3. Interpersonal Communication Skills

Inherent Requirement

- Respectful communication with others, including the ability to listen, display and respect empathy, build rapport and gain trust to ensure meaningful and effective interactions with people they engage with.

Rationale

- Communication skills are an essential requirement to develop and maintain trusting relationships, and to perform effectively in an academic and complex professional environment, as well as solve problems and communicate knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter effectively.

Examples

- Communicate respectfully with people of different gender, sexuality and age, and from diverse cultural, religious, socio-economic and educational backgrounds.
- Establishing rapport with clients and responding appropriately to requests from patients, supervisors and other health professionals in the clinical setting.
- Cultural competence, sensitivity and willingness to work with individuals in a complex and diverse Australian educational setting.

Behavioural Stability

Inherent Requirement

- Behaviour that is adaptable to effectively manage changing situations sufficiently to maintain academic and professional relationships to acceptable community standards.

Rationale

- Behavioural stability is essential in managing personal emotional responses and behaviour in academic and complex professional environments, including situations of potential human distress. It is required to work constructively in culturally and socially diverse settings and to deal with challenging issues, timelines and ambiguously defined problems.

Examples

- Reflecting on practice and responding appropriately to constructive feedback.
- Coping with own emotions and behaviour effectively when dealing with individuals in the clinical setting (e.g. maintaining professional empathy and objectivity in the context of a dying patient).
- Manage own work schedule to maximise safety, efficiency and effectiveness.

Motor Skills

Inherent requirement

- Sufficient tactile function, strength and mobility to function within an occupational therapy scope of practice.

Rationale

- Occupational therapists work in a wide range of settings and with a wide range of people. Each practice setting will be different in terms of what motor skills are required.

Examples

- Each practice setting will be different. For example an occupational therapists working as a hand therapist will require a level of strength and dexterity to construct orthoses. An occupational therapist working as a disability advocate could perform this role with minimal motor skills.

Sensory Skills

Inherent requirement

- Sufficient sensorimotor skills, including visual, auditory and tactile acuity to function with the occupational therapy scope of practice.

Rationale

- Occupational therapists work in a wide range of settings and with a wide range of people. Each practice setting will be different in terms of what sensory skills are required

Examples

- Each practice setting will be different. For example an occupational therapist working as an access specialist will require a range of senses (sight, hearing, proprioception) in order to work. Other areas of occupational therapy can be done with sensory impairments (sight or hearing for example).

Cognitive Skills

Inherent Requirement

- Acquire knowledge, process information, analyse, think critically and synthesise information to apply knowledge of the discipline and sufficiently meet learning outcomes and academic standards relevant to the course, utilising cognitive, numeracy and literacy skills, including focus, memory, and attention to detail.

Rationale

- Cognitive skills are essential in acquisition and application of knowledge in both the academic and professional environment.

Examples

- Ability to conceptualise and use appropriate knowledge in response to academic assessment items.

ICT Capacity

Inherent Requirement

- Acquire, and employ information and communications technology (ICT) skills in an appropriate and effective

manner, utilising a range of systems in both the academic and professional setting.

Rationale

- Competent ICT skills are essential to successfully access, apply and communicate information.

Examples

- Creating electronic medical records.
- Developing accessible resources for clients.
- Researching electronic journals and submitting assignments online.

Sustainable Performance

Inherent requirements

- Consistently completes tasks in a timely manner and within a designated period, where required, while maintaining consistency and quality of performance.

Rationale

- Tasks must be completed consistently and with respect to industry or workplace defined timeframes.

Examples

- Perform multiple tasks in an assigned period with a level of concentration that ensures a capacity to focus on the activity until it is completed appropriately.
- Attend clinical placements in a range of settings and for the required number of hours, within a reasonable period.