

# OTAT-2000: CLINICAL SKILLS FOR THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

---

## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: OTAT-2000 : Clinical Skills for the Occupational Therapy Assistant**

**Board of Trustees:**

March 2025

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2025

**Subject Code**

OTAT - Occupational Therapy Assisting

**Course Number:**

2000

**Title:**

Clinical Skills for the Occupational Therapy Assistant

**Catalog Description:**

Overview of essential skills used in the field of occupational therapy. Students develop understanding of patient care principles and demonstrate clinical skills used to enhance function and increase occupational performance with a diverse population.

**Credit Hour(s):**

2

**Lecture Hour(s):**

.5

**Lab Hour(s):**

1.5

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

OTAT-1310 Task Analysis and concurrent enrollment in OTAT-1430 Techniques in Psychosocial Dysfunction.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Demonstrate effective communication with clients, care partners, communities, and intraprofessional and interprofessional team members in a responsive and responsible manner that supports a team approach to promote client outcomes.

**Objective(s):**

1. Use professional communication that is sensitive to a diverse population, such as race, culture, gender, and age.
2. Recognize the impact that differences in cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic, and psychological background can have on patient/client interaction and response to treatment.
3. Demonstrate a proper introduction to patient/client that includes identification and obtaining informed consent.
4. Demonstrate using effective and professional communication with clients and other stakeholders.
5. Maintain confidentiality, client privacy and modesty to treat others with positive regard, dignity, respect and compassion.
6. Demonstrate personal and professional abilities and competencies as they relate to job responsibilities needed in the clinical setting, including appearance, organization, attitude, working as part of a team, and ethical behavior.

---

**Course Outcome(s):**

Demonstrate sound judgment regarding safety of self and others. Adhere to all lab safety and infection control practices as they relate to infection control (e.g. handwashing, sanitation of environment/equipment, donning of personal protective equipment (PPE) and prevention of spread of contagious diseases, viruses, etc.

**Objective(s):**

1. Review concept, use and value of standard, universal and transmission-based precautions.
2. Exhibit proper technique for hand hygiene, and (PPE).

---

**Course Outcome(s):**

Demonstrate sound judgement regarding patient safety by gathering information on basic vital signs using selected assessments necessary to ensure the client is stable for intervention.

**Objective(s):**

1. Review and demonstrate the ability to take and record blood pressure with accuracy.
2. Review and demonstrate the ability to take and record pulse with accuracy.
3. Review and demonstrate the ability to take and record respiratory rate with accuracy.
4. Review and demonstrate the ability to use, read, and record pulse oximetry with accuracy.
5. Review and demonstrate the ability to take a patient's temperature with accuracy.
6. Identify the normal values for vital signs and when to take appropriate action when outside of normal values.
7. Identify various patient situations that may arise indicating when vital signs should be measured and monitored.

---

**Course Outcome(s):**

Apply principles of, and demonstrate strategies with, essential concepts of proper patient positioning/bed mobility for application with client handling to safely maneuver throughout treatment sessions.

**Objective(s):**

1. Identify the elements of good posture/body mechanics and demonstrate in all clinical activities.
2. Discuss precautions related to positioning.
3. Present a rationale for the use and application of intermediate proper patient positioning.
4. Instruct patient to perform intermediate positioning/bed mobility techniques with or without assistance.

---

**Course Outcome(s):**

Explain principles of, and demonstrate strategies with, assistive technologies, wheeled mobility, assistive devices, adaptive equipment, and durable medical equipment (e.g. electronic aids to daily living/communication, mobility, sensory loss, computer access seating, and positioning systems) used to enhance occupational performance and foster participation and well-being.

**Objective(s):**

1. Review and define assistive technology, wheeled mobility, assistive devices, adaptive equipment, durable medical equipment, and functional mobility.
2. Identify basic safety issues with functional mobility and demonstrate ways to increase safety.
3. Review, apply, and demonstrate use of various types of assistive devices.
4. Review, apply, and demonstrate use of the components of a standard wheelchair.

---

**Course Outcome(s):**

Explain the role of the occupational therapy practitioner with functional transfers and demonstrate competency.

**Objective(s):**

1. Review and define a functional transfer.
2. Present rationale for the use and application of various transfers.
3. Review, discuss, and demonstrate the organization and preparation that should occur prior to any patient mobility/transfer activities.
4. Demonstrate safety, competency, and good body mechanics in instructing and performing a transfer with and without assistance.

---

**Course Outcome(s):**

Demonstrate and explain common assessment methods for upper extremity range of motion and strength and demonstrate competency.

**Objective(s):**

1. Review and demonstrate active/passive/active-assistive range of motion procedures and protocols.
  2. Review and demonstrate types of exercise for range of motion procedures and protocols.
  3. Describe and demonstrate basic/intermediate goniometry testing positions of the upper extremity.
  4. Determine range of motion measurements of the basic/intermediate upper extremity joints.
  5. Discuss and apply techniques in upper extremity strengthening.
  6. Review, define, and apply muscles grades.
  7. Explain and demonstrate the six steps of the standard procedure for manual muscle testing.
  8. Describe basic/intermediate manual muscle testing positions of the upper extremity.
  9. Determine basic/intermediate manual muscle testing measurements of the basic/intermediate upper extremities.
- 

**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Assignments
2. Written exam
3. Practical examinations

**Course Content Outline:**

1. Communication
  - a. Communication techniques for diverse populations
  - b. Establishing rapport with clients
  - c. Effective communication techniques with clients and other stakeholders
  - d. Maintain client dignity, privacy, and confidentiality
  - e. Personal and professional competence
2. Infection Control
  - a. Safety
  - b. Standard, universal, and transmission-based precautions
  - c. Effective techniques
3. Vital Signs
  - a. Blood pressure
  - b. Pulse
  - c. Respiratory rate
  - d. Pulse oximetry
  - e. Temperature
  - f. Normal values
  - g. Clinical situations for use
4. Basic Positioning
  - a. Posture/body mechanics
  - b. Precautions
  - c. Rationale
  - d. Instruction
5. Assistive Technology/Devices, Adaptive/Durable Medical Equipment, Functional Mobility
  - a. Types of assistive technology, devices, and equipment
  - b. Safety
  - c. Using assistive technology/devices
  - d. Using wheelchairs
6. Functional Transfers
  - a. Preparation
  - b. Safety
  - c. Rationale and application
7. Upper Extremity Range of Motion and Strength
  - a. Range of motion
  - b. Goniometry
  - c. Strength
  - d. Manual muscle testing

## Resources

Fairchild, Sheryl, and O'Shea, Roberta. *Pierson and Fairchild's Principles & Techniques of Patient Care* . 7th ed. Elsevier Health Sciences, 2023.

---

Johansson, Charity, et al. *Mobility in Context: Principles of Patient Care Skills*. F.A. Davis Company, 2022.

---

Van Ost, Lynn. *Cram Session in Goniometry and Manual Muscle Testing: A Handbook for Students & Clinicians* . Routledge, 2024.

---

Top of page

Key: 5242