



WEST COAST UNIVERSITY
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAMS
STUDENT HANDBOOK

OTD PROGRAM MISSION

West Coast University's Occupational Therapy Program is based on the belief that all humans are occupational beings in nature, and in the healing power of occupation whereby humans can influence their own health status. Occupational engagement and thus occupation-based interventions are therefore the central theme of the curriculum.

Our mission is

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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Occupational Therapy (OT) programs reflects the mission statement and values of West Coast University, the values of the occupational therapy profession, and the mission and values of the faculty of the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy Doctorate programs. Some of the themes that these entities share are: student-centricity; commitment to the communities served; innovation and creativity; and the efficient use of resources. The occupational therapy program curricula incorporate central beliefs about (1) health and wellbeing, (2) occupation, and (3) teaching and learning as evidenced in the following sections.

(1) Health and Well-being

The curricular philosophy of the OT Programs at WCU provides a set of basic principles or concepts which determine the design of the curricula. The philosophy is based on one of the perspectives which underpin the nature of humankind-- holistic approach as opposed to a reductionist approach. The holistic approach is a foundational principle of the profession and integrates and maintains the person as a whole, "an interaction of biological, psychological, sociocultural and spiritual elements" (O'Brien, 2018). Thus, if any part of the system is affected by illness, disease or disability, the entire system will be disturbed. In this systems thinking, humans are viewed as active beings where control resides within the individual, and the person is an active participant (client) in the services designed to aid in improvement, as opposed to a passive recipient (patient) receiving treatment to recover. The systems are interactive and adaptive and the subjective components – spirituality, thoughts, feeling and perceptions – are incorporated. If the occupational therapist should only focus on certain body parts and function during interventions, the client is denied the uniqueness of occupational therapy services: a holistic approach.

Because the client is an integral part of the therapeutic process, the occupational therapist must understand the full range of elements that constitute quality of life for the individual. Health f



The overarching themes of the domain of occupational therapy including occupations, client factors, performance patterns, and performance skills on the domain of occupational therapy connects with health and wellbeing (AOTA, 2014). The unique defining contribution of occupational therapy to health and well-being is the application of knowledge, skill, professional attitude, and values to assist clients to engage in everyday meaningful activities or occupations-- the things people need and want to do. The MSOT and OTD Programs at West

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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAMS DRESS CODE

WCU OT students are highly visible to the public and must be sensitive to this fact. Students must abide by the following policies regarding professional dress and appearance while on the University campus.

- The University ID must be properly exposed above the waist on your front collar or on a lanyard at all times.
- Students will portray the well-groomed appearance of a responsible health professional.
- Nails must be groomed to ¼" or less with neutral colors polish only (no artificial nails).
- Facial hair is acceptable when cleanly shaven or well groomed. All accessories and jewelry shall be free of writing, pictures, symbols or any other insignia, which are crude, vulgar, profane, obscene, libelous, slanderous, or sexually suggestive. Any accessory or jewelry which creates a safety or health concern, causes or threatens to cause a disruption to the educational process, is prohibited. Body piercing jewelry other than lobe earrings (maximum of two earrings per lobe) is prohibited.

STUDENT STATEMENT REGARDING B

Title IX Nondiscrimination Policy and Notice of Nondiscrimination

West Coast University (WCU) does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities.

