

STAFF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, an incumbent in this class is responsible for the rehabilitation of patients through the use of occupational therapy techniques, including activities of daily living and other activities designed to aid the patients' physical and/or mental response. This level differs from Occupational Therapist, the entry-level classification in this series, in that it is the full performance level and functions with minimal supervision in carrying out assigned activities. Supervision may be exercised over Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapy Aides and Students. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Evaluates the level of functioning of assigned patients and plans an appropriate therapeutic program in order to improve functioning within own surroundings;

Instructs patients in self-help activities such as the basic skills of eating, dressing, writing, homemaking, personal grooming, and the use of adaptive equipment, prostheses and orthoses in order to provide rehabilitation and mobility in these activities;

Assists in the adjustment of patients to debilitating handicaps by providing opportunities for the expression of emotional needs as well as physical rehabilitation to improve interpersonal relationships and encourage socially acceptable behavior;

Plans and executes therapeutic activities and exercises to achieve stated goals including perceptual training;

Administers specific treatment for the restoration of physical function to increase joint motions, muscle strength and coordination;

Assists visually handicapped patients in adjusting by initiating new learning skills;

Evaluates prevocational skills and attitudes;

Designs, fabricates and fits orthoses and adaptive equipment in order to improve mobility;

Maintains medical records and charts in accordance with established procedures;

Participates in meetings, conferences, and patient rounds as required;

Assists in the maintenance of therapeutic area and equipment;

Provides instruction and guidance to students and entry level therapists;

Accesses protected health information (PHI) in accordance with departmental assignments and guidelines defining levels of access (i.e. incidental vs. extensive);

Uses computer applications or other automated systems such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail and database software in performing work assignments;

May perform other incidental tasks, as needed.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of the principles and techniques of occupational therapy; ability to motivate patients toward their highest level of function; ability to instruct patients in therapeutic activities; ability to work well with other team members; ability to read, write, speak, understand, and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential duties of the position; ability to effectively use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail, and database software in performing work assignments; sound professional judgment; initiative; resourcefulness; physical condition commensurate with the requirements of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Possession of a license and current registration issued by the New York State Education Department as an Occupational Therapist and two years of experience as a licensed professional performing occupational therapy as the primary function of the position.

SUBSTITUTION: Possession of a Master's Degree* in Occupational Therapy may be substituted for one year of the above experience.

*SPECIAL NOTE: Experience gained prior to obtaining a New York State license as an Occupational Therapist will be considered in evaluating experience if such experience was gained while practicing occupational therapy under a license meeting recognized standards issued by another state or territory.

**SPECIAL NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution recognized or accredited by the Board of Regents of the NYS Education Department as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.