

Inherent Requirements for the Completion of Entry Level Occupational Therapy Courses at La Trobe University

The current practice of occupational therapy is diverse, ranging across all areas of health and health promotion and across delivery modes including face-to-face services and technology assisted services. There has been rapid knowledge growth relevant to occupational approaches to health at population, group and individual levels. To ensure evidenced based practice, graduates of entry level courses at La Trobe University are required to be committed to life-long learning.

The current curriculum reflects the dynamic nature of knowledge and skills required for beginning practitioners. It has been devised and revised by a group of academics in consultation with key stakeholders, who have a wide range of academic and clinical knowledge and skills.

The curriculum and the assessment have been approved by the Entry Level Courses Committee of the School of Occupational Therapy and the appropriate Faculty and University committees.

The School of Occupational Therapy is highly regarded nationally and internationally and the courses have been accredited by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists enabling graduates to become a member of OT Australia, the Australian Association of Occupational Therapists Inc and AccOT, an accredited member of the association for 18 months post graduation.

Graduates are expected to meet the assessment requirements of all the units of the course and a choice of elective units outlined in the handbook.

The undergraduate units are identified at:
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/handbook/>

Entry level masters graduates unit requirements can be found at:
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/handbook/>

In addition to the inherent requirements of units specific to Occupational Therapy outlined below, prospective students should be aware that the Faculty of Health Science at La Trobe University has established Graduate Attributes that are universal to all courses and may be accessed at:
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/health/teachlearn/tlstud.htm>

Police checks are required for most Clinical placements that graduates must successfully complete.

The competencies specific to the School of Occupational Therapy units are listed below. Prospective students are advised that competency characteristics related to units not taught by the School of Occupational Therapy are available on the providers' website. Graduates are required to meet the competency requirements of the courses consistent with current educational technology and best practice associated with the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Knowledge

In response to written exams, assignments, and oral presentations required by La Trobe University and in various professional and clinical settings, a student must be able to demonstrate a capacity to:-

- use a variety of data gathering methods and resources (literature searches, electronic data bases, focus groups, interviews, medical records) to identify occupational performance issues associated with the health and well-being of populations, groups and individuals;
- synthesise and apply relevant knowledge from biological, medical, human, psychological, social, technological and occupational sciences, together with theories of occupation and participation.
- integrate occupational therapy theory and knowledge from various sources (lectures, tutorials, practical demonstrations, experience, interviews, books, journals and electronic sources) to synthesise outcomes such as policies, procedures, critical appraisals of the literature, research/project plans, intervention plans, oral /written reports and manuscripts, all with the potential for publication.

Skills

In response to course assessment protocols and course participation required by La Trobe University, a student must be able to demonstrate a capacity to safely and effectively:

- access a variety of environments including public buildings, a variety of work places and private homes to evaluate and enable occupational performance;
- support and position limbs to evaluate and enable occupational performance;
- assist people with mobility and transfers;
- use a variety of tools, materials, assistive devices and equipment to validly and reliably evaluate and enable occupational performance;
- communicate clearly and sensitively (via listening, verbal and demonstration skills) as a member of a team, with and within groups, and with individuals to evaluate and enable occupational performance.

Attitudes

In response to oral presentations; written professional and clinical assignments required by the University and in a variety of professional and clinical settings, must be able to demonstrate a capacity to:-

- embrace life-long learning and enable the learning of others;
- work in a client centred manner, respecting privacy and choice, to address occupational performance issues of clients (communities, groups and individuals) without prejudice;

- work in an ethical manner consistent with organisational and professional requirements.

Assessment

Graduates will normally be required to obtain a 50% pass in a variety of assessments associated with course units unless otherwise stated in the course requirements published by La Trobe University.

The mode of assessment reflects the unit mode of delivery, context and content.

Units with professional or practical components will normally include some professional or practical assessment.

Hurdle assessments within units reflect the value placed on performance of specific knowledge, skills and attitudes. These performance requirements are representative of the variety of professional behaviours deemed appropriate for entry level graduates in the Australian context as determined by the Entry Level Courses Committee of the School of Occupational Therapy and represent the resources available to La Trobe University at the time of approval by that committee.

Clinical Placement

Students are required to undertake a minimum of 1,000 clinical placement hours during the course of the degree program.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the School of Occupational Therapy to discuss if reasonable adjustments need to be considered to enable the student to meet the expectations of the course. Any adjustments agreed to must not compromise the safety and well-being of the client or student. A student with a disability must be able to demonstrate the knowledge and perform the necessary skills independently. However, there are a few circumstances in which an intermediary may be appropriate but this will be determined on a case by case basis.