

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Licensing Authority	<p>Jan Scheffert Physical and Occupational Therapy Board Iowa Department of Public Health Lucas State Office Bldg 5th Fl 321 E 12th St Des Moines IA 50319-0075 Phone: (515) 281-4401 Fax: (515) 281-3121 E-mail: jscheffert@idph.state.ia.us</p>
Legal Authority	Code of Iowa, Chapter 148B; Iowa Administrative Code 645, Chapters 205-210
Job Description	<p>Occupational therapists plan and direct educational, vocational, and recreational activities to help mentally, physically, or emotionally disabled patients become self-sufficient, maintain health, and prevent disability; evaluate the capacities and skills of patients; set goals and plan therapy programs; assist patients in performing activities of all kinds, ranging from using a computer to caring for daily needs, such as dressing, cooking, and eating. For those with permanent functional disabilities, therapists provide such adaptive equipment as wheelchairs, splints, and aids for eating and dressing. They also design or make special equipment needed at home or at work.</p> <p>An important part of an occupational therapist's job is recording a patient's activities and progress. These records are essential for evaluating patients, billing, and reporting to physicians.</p>
Education & Experience Required	An applicant must have a degree in occupational therapy from a licensed program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association and six months of supervised field experience.
Continuing Education	Thirty hours of continuing education are required biennially for license renewal.
Examination	Applicants must make arrangements to take, and then successfully pass, the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) examination. New grads who have never held an occupational therapy license may apply for a Limited Permit which is valid for a period not to exceed six months, limited permit holders may practice under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist until he/she takes the national exam.
Fees	<p>Application: \$100 Duration: Two years Renewal: \$50 Exam: \$250 – arranged by applicant (NBCOT)</p>

SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage	29-1122 – Occupational Therapists (\$22.53)
Number of Licenses Issued	Total number of licenses active as of December 31, 2003: 721 2002: 774 2001: 1,049
For Additional Information	Iowa Department of Public Health Web site: www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) 800 S Frederick Ave Ste 200 Gaithersburg MD 20877-4150 (301) 990-7979 American Occupational Therapy Association 4720 Montgomery Ln Bethesda MD 20814 ((301) 652-2682