

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Licensing Authority Jan Scheffert
Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners
Iowa Department of Public Health
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Legal Authority Code of Iowa, Chapter 148B; Iowa Administrative Code 645, 205-209

Job Description 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.

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.

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.

Fees Application: \$100
Duration: Two years
Renewal: \$50
Exam: \$250 – arranged by applicant (NBCOT)

SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage 29-1122 – Occupational Therapists (\$21.48)

Number of Licenses Issued Total number of licenses active as of December 31, 2001: 1,049

For Additional Information Iowa Department of Public Health Web site:
<http://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 Certification Board
4 Research Pl Ste 160
Rockville MD 20850-3226
(301) 990-7979