



ΑΟΤΑ[®]

**The American
Occupational Therapy
Association, Inc.**



Tools for Transitioning from Student to Entry-Level Practitioner

**AOTA Student Conclave
November 16 & 17, 2007
Pittsburgh, PA**



Introduction

- **An important “tool” we’ll try to provide is insight about moving into the workforce and to highlight key areas and issues you’ll face.**



What Does an Entry-Level Practitioner Have to Offer?

- **Holistic Treatment**
- **Enthusiasm and Creativity**
- **New knowledge**
 - **Research**
 - ***Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: Domain and Process***
- **Evidence Based Practice**




Professional Statement

- **Summarizes the purpose for becoming an occupational therapist.**
- **Guide for job search and placement**
- **A point of reference when creating professional development goals**
- **Promotes life long learning**



Professional Statement

I want to educate older adults on how to age successfully by teaching self-management skills, encouraging active participation in the community, and promoting a healthy balance of daily activities.



Challenges of an Entry-Level Practitioner

- **Confidence in Skills**
- **Striking a Balance**
- **Employer Expectations**
- **Knowledge Gap**



Professional Responsibilities of an Entry-Level Practitioner

- **Licensure**
- **AOTA Membership**
- **State Association Membership**
- **CEU Requirements for Licensure**
- **Member of a Profession-obligations**



Practice Scholarship and Life-Long Learning

- Inservices**
- Research Committees**
- Exploring Community Resources**
- AOTA and State Associations projects**
- Clinical Ladder Programs**
- AOTA Board and Specialty Certifications**




Professional Development Goals

- **Measurable**
 - I will organize and present at least 2 continuing education seminars for my colleagues.
- **Balanced**
 - Job specific tasks
 - Self directed learning tasks



The Best Part of Moving into the workforce

- **Paycheck !**
- **I actually do OT!**
- **Being part of the team**
- **Continuing to learn**



The Worst Part of Moving into the Workforce

- Time Management
- Moving from learning intern to learning OT
- Resistance to bringing Evidence-Based Practice into the workplace
- Feeling Like I have so much to learn



Mentoring

- **What it takes to be a successful mentee**
- **The Mentor / Mentee relationship**




Resources

- **AOTA**
 - Listservs
 - Publications: OT Practice/AJOT/SIS Quarterlies
 - Conferences
 - Continuing Education Classes
 - Professional Development Tool
 - Networking

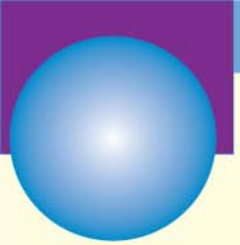


Resources

- **State Association**
 - Conferences
 - Continuing Education Classes
 - Networking
- **Employer/ Workplace**
 - Orientation and Mentoring
 - Learning from others
 - Commitment to Education
 - » On-site or approved courses
- **Other**



Advice from your peers



QUESTIONS?



Contacts

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