Chapter 246-847 WAC

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

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DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER


246-847-130 Definition of "commonly accepted standards for the profession." [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 93-18-093 (Order 394B), § 246-847-130, filed 9/1/93, effective 10/2/93; WSR 91-05-027 (Order 112B), recodified as § 246-847-130, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130 and 18.130.050; WSR 86-10-004 (Order PL 588), § 308-171-200, filed 4/24/86. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2) and 18.59.070. WSR 85-05-008 (Order PL 513), § 308-171-200, filed 2/11/85.] Repealed by WSR 07-20-076, filed 10/1/07, effective 11/1/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130.

246-847-175 Delegation of authority to initiate investigations. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130 and 18.130.050. WSR 07-20-076, § 246-847-175, filed 10/1/07, effective 11/1/07.] Repealed by WSR 11-17-061, filed 8/15/11, effective 9/15/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.130-050, 18.59.130, and 18.130.080.


WAC 246-847-010 Definitions. The following terms in this section apply throughout this chapter and have the following meanings:

(1) "Adapting environments for individuals with disabilities" includes assessing needs, identifying strategies, implementing and training in the use of strategies, and evaluating outcomes. Occupational therapy focuses on the interaction of an individual's skills and abilities, the features of the environment, and the demands and purposes of activities.

(2) "Clients" include patients, students, and those to whom occupational therapy services are delivered.

(3) "Client-related tasks" are routine tasks during which the aide may interact with the client but does not act as a primary service provider of occupational therapy services. The following factors must be present when an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant delegates a selected client-related task to the aide:

(a) The outcome anticipated for the delegated task is predictable;

(b) The situation of the client and the environment is stable and will not require that judgment, interpretations, or adaptations be made by the aide;

(c) The client has demonstrated some previous performance ability in executing the task; and

(d) The task routine and process have been clearly established.

(4) "Commonly accepted standards for the profession" in RCW 18.59.040(5)(b) and 18.59.070 shall mean having passed the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy or its successor/predecessor organization, not having engaged in unprofessional conduct or gross incompetency as established by the board in WAC 246-847-160 for conduct occurring prior to June 11, 1986, and as established in RCW 18.130.180 for conduct occurring on or after June 11, 1986.

(5) "Consultation" means that practitioners are expected to function as consultants within the scope of practice appropriate to their level of competence.
(6) "Developing prevocational skills and play and avocational capabilities" also involves the scientifically based use of purposeful activity.

(7) "Direct supervision" as described in RCW 18.59.040(7) means daily, in-person contact at the site where services are provided by an occupational therapist licensed in the state of Washington.

(8) "Evaluation" is the process of obtaining and interpreting data necessary for treatment, which includes, but is not limited to, planning for and documenting the evaluation process and results. The evaluation data may be gathered through record review, specific observation, interview, and the administration of data collection procedures, which include, but are not limited to, the use of standardized tests, performance checklists, and activities and tasks designed to evaluate specific performance abilities.

(9) "In association" as described in RCW 18.59.040(7) means practicing in a setting in which an occupational therapist licensed in the state of Washington is available on the premises for supervision, consultation, and assistance as needed to provide protection for the client's health, safety, and welfare.

(10) "Occupational therapy aide" means a person who is trained by an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant to perform client and nonclient related tasks. Occupational therapy aides are not primary service providers of occupational therapy in any practice setting. Occupational therapy aides do not provide skilled occupational therapy services.

(11) "Professional supervision" of an occupational therapy aide as described in RCW 18.59.020(5) means in-person contact at the treatment site by an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant licensed in the state of Washington. When client related tasks are provided by an occupational therapy aide more than once a week, professional supervision must occur at least weekly. When client related tasks are provided by an occupational therapy aide once a week or less, professional supervision must occur at least once every two weeks.

(12) "Regular consultation" as described in RCW 18.59.020(4) means in-person contact at least monthly by an occupational therapist licensed in the state of Washington with supervision available as needed by other methods which include but are not limited to phone and e-mail.

(13) "Scientifically based use of purposeful activity" is the treatment of individuals using established methodology based upon the behavioral and biological sciences and includes the therapeutic use of everyday life activities (occupations) with individuals or groups for the purpose of participation in roles and situations in home, school, workplace, community, and other settings. "Occupations" are activities having unique meaning and purpose in an individual's life.

(14) "Teaching daily living skills" is the instruction in daily living skills based upon the evaluation of all the components of the individual's disability and the adaptation or treatment based on the evaluation.

(15) "Working days" in RCW 18.59.040(5) shall mean consecutive calendar days.

(16) "Work site" in RCW 18.59.080 means the primary work location.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 07-20-076, § 246-847-010, filed 10/1/07, effective 11/1/07; WSR 92-18-015 (Order 300B), § 246-847-010, filed 8/24/92, effective 9/24/92; WSR 91-11-064 (Order 171B), § 246-847-010, filed 5/16/91, effective 6/16/91; WSR 91-05-027 (Order 112B), recodified as § 246-847-010, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.59 RCW. WSR 90-16-071 (Order 075), § 308-171-001, filed 7/30/90, effective 8/30/90. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130 and 18.130.050. WSR 87-09-044 (Order PM 645), § 308-171-001, filed 4/14/87. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2) and 18.130.050(1). WSR 86-17-064 (Order PM 610), § 308-171-001, filed 8/19/86. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2) and 18.59.020(5). WSR 86-10-004 (Order PL 588), § 308-171-001, filed 4/24/86. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2). WSR 85-12-010 (Order PL 529), § 308-171-001, filed 5/23/85. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2) and 18.59.020. WSR 85-05-008 (Order PL 513), § 308-171-001, filed 2/11/85.]

WAC 246-847-020 Persons exempt from the definition of an occupational therapy aide. An "occupational therapy aide" for whom an occupational therapist must provide professional supervision pursuant to RCW 18.59.020(5) does not include persons employed at a facility who are performing services under the supervision or direction of another licensed health care practitioner or certified teacher if the occupational therapist serves solely in a consulting capacity to the facility.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 91-05-027 (Order 112B), recodified as § 246-847-020, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2) and 18.130.050. WSR 87-09-044 (Order PM 645), § 308-171-002, filed 4/14/87. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2). WSR 87-01-088 (Order PM 630), § 308-171-002, filed 12/22/86.]

WAC 246-847-030 Occupational therapists acting in a consulting capacity. (1) "Consulting capacity" shall mean the providing of information and recommendations which the facility, licensed health care practitioners, or certified teachers employed at that facility may accept, reject, or modify at the election of the facility, the licensed health care practitioners, or certified teachers and if the occupational therapist's recommendations are accepted or modified then the recommendations shall be incorporated into the patient's health care plan as part of the nursing or physician's care plan or educational care plan and not held out as the providing of occupational therapy services to the patients or public or billed by the facility as the providing of occupational therapy services to the patients.

(2) An occupational therapist acting in a consulting capacity shall include the following information in the occupational therapist's documentation:

(a) Date of consultation;
(b) To whom the consultation is provided;
(c) Description of services provided;
(d) Consultation recommendation; and
(e) Recommendations concerning who should implement the consultation recommendations.

The documentation described above shall be retained by the consulting occupational therapist.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 91-05-027 (Order 112B), recodified as § 246-847-030, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130 and 18.130.050. WSR 87-09-044 (Order PM 645), § 308-171-003, filed 4/14/87.]

WAC 246-847-040 Recognized educational programs—Occupational therapists. The board recognizes and approves courses of instruction conducted by schools
that have obtained accreditation of the program in occupational therapy from the American Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education as recognized in the current Listing of Educational Programs in Occupational Therapy published by the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.


**WAC 246-847-050 Recognized educational programs—Occupational therapy assistants.** The board recognizes and approves courses of instruction conducted by schools that have obtained approval of the occupational therapy assistant associate degree programs and occupational therapy assistant certificate programs from the American Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education as recognized in the current Listing of Educational Programs in Occupational Therapy published by the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.


**WAC 246-847-055 Initial application for individuals who have not practiced within the past four years.** (1) Any initial applicant who has not been actively engaged in the practice of occupational therapy within the past four years shall provide, in addition to the requirements for licensure as specified in RCW 18.59.050 and WAC 246-847-190:

(a) Evidence of having successfully completed an approved occupational therapy or occupational therapy assistant program within the past four years and documentation of thirty hours of continued competency as described in WAC 246-847-065 for the previous two-year period; or

(b) Evidence of having passed the examination as defined in WAC 246-847-080 within the previous two-year period and documentation of thirty hours of continued competency as described in WAC 246-847-065 for the previous two-year period; or

(c) Evidence of having successfully completed a board approved educational program specifically designed for occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants preparing for reentry into the field of occupational therapy.

(2) The applicant may be required to appear before the board for oral interview.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280. WSR 98-05-060, § 246-847-055, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 93-18-093 (Order 394B), § 246-847-055, filed 9/1/93, effective 10/2/93.]

**WAC 246-847-065 Continued competency.** As required in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 7, licensed occupational therapists and licensed occupational therapy assistants must complete thirty hours of continuing education every two years. A minimum of twenty hours must be directly related to the practice of occupational therapy as defined in RCW 18.59.020 and WAC 246-847-010. The remaining ten hours may be in professional development activities that enhance the licensed occupational therapist or licensed occupational therapy assistant. The thirty contact hours must be obtained through two or more of the activities listed below. Documentation for all activities must include licensee's name, date of activity, and number of hours. Additional specific documentation is defined below:

(1) Continuing education course work. The required documentation for this activity is a certificate or documentation of attendance.

(2) In-service training. The required documentation for this activity is a certificate or documentation of attendance.

(3) Professional conference or workshop. The required documentation for this activity is a certificate or documentation of attendance.

(4) Course work offered by an accredited college or university, provided that the course work is taken after the licensee has obtained a degree in occupational therapy, and the course work provides skills and knowledge beyond entry-level skills or knowledge. The required documentation for this activity is a transcript.

(5) Publications. The required documentation for this activity is a copy of the publication.

(6) Presentations. The required documentation for this activity is a copy of the presentation or program listing. Any particular presentation may be reported only once per reporting period.

(7) Interactive online courses. The required documentation for this activity is a certificate or documentation of completion.

(8) Development of instructional materials incorporating alternative media such as: Video, audio and/or software programs to advance professional skills of others. The required documentation for this activity is a program description. The media/software materials must be available if requested during audit process.

(9) Professional manuscript review. The required documentation for this activity is a letter from publishing organization verifying review of manuscript. A maximum of ten hours is allowed per reporting period for this category.

(10) Guest lecturer for occupational therapy related academic course work (academia not primary role). The required documentation for this activity is a letter or other documentation from the organ-
nization. A maximum of ten hours is allowed per reporting period for this category.

(12) Self study of cassette, tape, video tape, or other multimedia device, or book. The required documentation for this activity is a two page synopsis of each item written by the licensee. A maximum of ten hours is allowed per reporting period for this category.

(13) Level II fieldwork direct supervision of an occupational therapy student or occupational therapy assistant student by site designated supervisor(s). The required documentation for this activity is a name of student(s), letter of verification from school, and dates of fieldwork. A maximum of ten hours per supervisor is allowed per reporting period for this category.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130 and 18.59.090. WSR 05-04-105, § 246-847-065, filed 12/7/05, effective 1/7/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280. WSR 98-05-060, § 246-847-065, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 92-18-015 (Order 300B), § 246-847-065, filed 8/24/92, effective 9/24/92; WSR 91-11-064 (Order 171B), § 246-847-065, filed 5/16/91, effective 6/16/91; WSR 91-05-027 (Order 112B), recodified as § 246-847-065, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91; WSR 90-22-011 (Order 094), § 308-171-041, filed 10/26/90, effective 11/26/90.]

WAC 246-847-068 Expired license. (1) If the license has expired for three years or less, the practitioner must meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

(2) If the license has expired for over three years, and the practitioner has been in active practice in another United States jurisdiction, the practitioner must:

(a) Submit verification of active practice from any other United States jurisdiction;

(b) Meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

(3) If the license has expired for over three years, and the practitioner has not been in active practice in another United States jurisdiction, the practitioner must:

(a) Either provide evidence of having passed the examination as defined in WAC 246-847-080 within the previous two-year period or provide evidence of successfully completing a board-approved educational program specifically designed for occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants preparing for reentry into the field of occupational therapy;

(b) Meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.


WAC 246-847-070 Inactive credential. A practitioner may obtain an inactive credential. Refer to the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 4.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280. WSR 98-05-060, § 246-847-070, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 93-18-093 (Order 394B), § 246-847-070, filed 9/1/93, effective 10/2/93; WSR 91-05-027 (Order 112B), recodified as § 246-847-070, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91; WSR 90-22-011 (Order 094), § 308-171-045, filed 10/26/90, effective 11/26/90.]

WAC 246-847-080 Examinations. (1) The examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy or its successor/predecessor organization shall be the official examination for licensure as an occupational therapist or as an occupational therapy assistant.

(2) To be eligible for a license, applicants must attain a passing score on the examination determined by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy or its successor/predecessor organization.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130 and 18.59.060. WSR 06-24-137, § 246-847-080, filed 12/6/06, effective 1/6/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 93-18-093 (Order 394B), § 246-847-080, filed 9/1/93, effective 10/2/93; WSR 92-18-015 (Order 300B), § 246-847-080, filed 8/24/92, effective 9/24/92; WSR 91-05-027 (Order 112B), recodified as § 246-847-080, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2). WSR 86-10-004 (Order PL 588), § 308-171-100, filed 4/24/86; WSR 85-05-008 (Order PL 513), § 308-171-100, filed 2/11/85.]

WAC 246-847-090 Proof of actual practice. An applicant seeking waiver of the education and experience requirements as provided in RCW 18.59.070(3) shall submit the following as proof of actual practice:

(1) Applicant's affidavit containing the following information:

(a) Location and dates of employment between June 7, 1981 and June 7, 1984;

(b) Description of capacity in which applicant was employed, including job title and description of specific duties;

(c) Description of nature of clientele; and

(d) Name and title of direct supervisor.

(2) Written job description.

(3) Affidavit from employer(s), from June 7, 1981 through June 7, 1984, containing the following information:

(a) Dates of applicant's employment;

(b) Description of applicant's specific duties, and

(c) Employer's title.

After reviewing the information submitted, the board may require submission of additional information if the board deems additional information necessary for purposes of clarifying the information previously submitted.

The proof of actual practice shall be submitted to the board's office no later than March 1, 1985.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 91-05-027 (Order 112B), recodified as § 246-847-090, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2) and 18.59.070(3). WSR 85-05-008 (Order PL 513), § 308-171-100, filed 2/11/85.]

WAC 246-847-100 Examination dates for applicants under RCW 18.59.070(3). (1) Applicants for an occupational therapist license under RCW 18.59.070(3) shall take the examination no later than June 29, 1985.

(2) Applicants for an occupational therapy assistant license under RCW 18.59.070(3) shall take the examination no later than July 20, 1985.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 91-05-027 (Order 112B), recodified as § 246-847-100, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2). WSR 85-05-008 (Order PL 513), § 308-171-102, filed 2/11/85.]

WAC 246-847-110 Persons exempt from licensure pursuant to RCW 18.59.040(5). (1) To qualify for the exemption from licensure pursuant to RCW 18.59.040(5), the
individual claiming the exemption shall have been actively engaged in the practice of occupational therapy within the preceding four-year period and shall in writing notify the department, at least thirty days before any occupational therapy services are performed in this state, of the following:

(a) In which state(s) the individual is licensed to perform occupational therapy services and the license number(s); and

(b) The name, address, and telephone number of at least one facility or employer where the individual has been engaged in the practice of occupational therapy within the preceding four years; or

(c) If the exemption is claimed under RCW 18.59.040 (5)(b), the individual must submit a signed notarized statement attesting to:

(i) Having passed the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy examination or its successor/predecessor organization; and

(ii) Having engaged in occupational therapy practice within the preceding four years, including the name, address, and telephone number of at least one facility or employer during this period;

(iii) Not having engaged in unprofessional conduct under RCW 18.130.180; and

(d) A signed notarized statement describing when the occupational therapy services will be performed, where the occupational therapy services will be performed, and how long the individual will be performing occupational therapy services in this state.

(2) A ninety-day temporary permit must be received by the occupational therapist prior to rendering of occupational therapy services.

WAC 246-847-115 Limited permits. (1) An applicant is eligible for a ninety-day limited permit when they have met the criteria described under RCW 18.59.040(7).

(2) An applicant who fails the examination may be granted a one time extension of the ninety-day limited permit.

(3) An applicant who successfully passes the examination for licensure and who has a valid limited permit through the department of health at the time the examination results are made public shall be deemed to be validly licensed under the limited permit for the next thirty calendar days.

WAC 246-847-117 Temporary permits—Issuance and duration pursuant to RCW 18.130.075. (1) Unless there is a basis for denial of an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant license, an applicant who is currently licensed in a jurisdiction considered by the board to have licensing standards substantially equivalent to Washington's shall be issued a temporary practice permit after receipt of the following documentation by the department of health:

(a) Submission of a completed occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant application on which the applicant indicates that he or she wishes to receive a temporary practice permit;

(b) Payment of the application fee and temporary practice permit fee; and

(c) Direct written verification of current licensure from the state whose licensing standards are substantially equivalent to Washington's.

(2) The temporary practice permit shall expire upon the issuance of a license by the board; initiation of an investigation by the board; or ninety days, whichever occurs first.

(3) An applicant who receives a temporary practice permit and who does not complete the licensure application process shall not receive additional temporary practice permits even upon submission of a new application in the future.

WAC 246-847-120 Applicants from unrecognized educational programs. (1) An applicant who has passed the approved National Certification Examination as defined in WAC 246-847-080, is considered to have met the education and experience requirements of RCW 18.59.050.

(2) Written verification of passing scores or verification of current certification must be submitted to the department directly from the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy or its successor/predecessor organization.

(3) After reviewing the information submitted, the board may require submission of additional information necessary for purposes of clarifying the information previously submitted.

WAC 246-847-125 Applicants currently licensed in other states or territories. (1) Before licensure may be extended to any individual currently licensed to practice as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant in another state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States as provided in RCW 18.59.070(2), the following conditions must be met:

(a) Evidence of having met the requirements for licensure as provided in RCW 18.59.050; and

(b) Verification of current licensure from any state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States on forms provided by the secretary; and

(c) Verification of having passed the examination as defined in WAC 246-847-080; and

(d) Evidence of having been actively engaged in the practice of occupational therapy within the preceding four-year period.
(2) If the applicant has not been actively engaged in the practice of occupational therapy within the past four years, the following conditions must be met:
   (a) Evidence of having taken and passed the examination as defined in WAC 246-847-080 within the previous two-year period and documentation of thirty hours of continued competency as described in WAC 246-847-065 for the previous two-year period; or
   (b) Evidence of having successfully completed a board approved educational program specifically designed for occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants preparing for reentry into the field of occupational therapy.

(3) The applicant may be required to appear before the board for oral interview.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 93-18-093 (Order 394B), § 246-847-125, filed 9/1/93, effective 10/2/93.]

WAC 246-847-135 Standards of supervision. The following are the standards for supervision of occupational therapy assistants, limited permit holders, and occupational therapy aides:

(1) Licensed occupational therapy assistants must be supervised through regular consultation by an occupational therapist licensed in the state of Washington. Regular consultation must be documented and the documentation must be kept in a location determined by the supervising occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant.

(2)(a) A limited permit holder must work in association with an occupational therapist licensed in the state of Washington with a minimum of one year of experience. "In association with" shall include consultation regarding evaluation, intervention, progress, reevaluation and discharge planning of each assigned patient at appropriate intervals and documented by cosignature of notes by the supervising occupational therapist.

(b) Limited permit holders who have failed the examination must be directly supervised by an occupational therapist licensed in the state of Washington with a minimum of one year of experience. Direct supervision must include consultation regarding evaluation, intervention, progress, reevaluation and discharge planning of each assigned patient at appropriate intervals and documented by cosignature of notes by the supervising occupational therapist.

(3) Occupational therapy aides must be professionally supervised and trained by an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant licensed in the state of Washington. Professional supervision must include documented supervision and training.

(a) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall train the occupational therapy aide on client and nonclient related tasks at least once a month.

(b) When performing client related tasks, the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant must ensure the occupational therapy aide is trained and competent in performing the task on the specific client.

(c) The documentation must be maintained in a location determined by the supervising occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant.

(4) Definitions can be found in WAC 246-847-010.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 07-20-076, § 246-847-135, filed 10/1/07, effective 11/1/07.]

WAC 246-847-140 Supervised fieldwork experience—Occupational therapists. "Supervised fieldwork experience" in RCW 18.59.050 (1)(c)(i) shall mean a minimum six months of Level II fieldwork conducted in settings approved by the applicant's academic program. Level II fieldwork is to provide an in-depth experience in delivering occupational therapy services to clients and to provide opportunities for supervised practice of occupational therapist entry-level roles. The minimum six months supervised fieldwork experience required by RCW 18.59.050 (1)(c)(i) shall not include Level I fieldwork experience as defined by the American Occupational Therapy Association.

The supervised fieldwork experience shall consist of a minimum of six months sustained fieldwork on a full-time basis. "Full-time basis" is as required by the fieldwork setting.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 91-05-027 (Order 112B), recodified as § 246-847-140, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2). WSR 87-01-088 (Order PM 630), § 308-171-201, filed 12/22/86; WSR 85-05-008 (Order PL 513), § 308-171-201, filed 2/11/85.]

WAC 246-847-150 Supervised fieldwork experience—Occupational therapy assistants. "Supervised fieldwork experience" in RCW 18.59.050 (1)(c)(ii) shall mean a minimum two months of Level II fieldwork conducted in settings approved by the applicant's academic or training program. Level II fieldwork is to provide an in-depth experience in delivering occupational therapy services to clients and to provide opportunities for supervised practice of occupational therapy assistant entry-level roles. The minimum two months supervised fieldwork experience required by RCW 18.59.050 (1)(c)(ii) shall not include Level I fieldwork experience as defined by the American Occupational Therapy Association.

The supervised fieldwork experience shall consist of a minimum of two one-month sustained fieldwork placements not less than forty full-time workdays. "Full-time workdays" is as required by the fieldwork setting.


WAC 246-847-160 Unprofessional conduct or gross incompetency. The following conduct, acts, or conditions constitute unprofessional conduct or gross incompetency for any license holder or applicant if the conduct, acts, or conditions occurred or existed prior to June 11, 1986:

(1) The commission of any act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, or corruption relating to the practice of the person's profession, whether the act constitutes a crime or not. If the act constitutes a crime, conviction in a criminal proceeding is not a condition precedent to disciplinary action. Upon such a conviction, however, the judgment and sentence is conclusive evidence at the ensuing disciplinary hearing of the guilt of the license holder or applicant of the crime described in the indictment or information, and of the person's violation of the statute on which it is based. For the purposes of this section, conviction includes all instances in which a plea of guilty or nolo contendere is the basis for the conviction and all proceedings in which the sentence has
been deferred or suspended. Nothing in this section abrogates rights guaranteed under chapter 9.96A RCW;

(2) Misrepresentation or concealment of a material fact in obtaining a license or in reinstatement thereof;

(3) All advertising which is false, fraudulent, or misleading;

(4) Incompetence, negligence, or actions in the practice of the profession which result in, or have a significant likelihood of resulting in, harm to the patient or public;

(5) Suspension, revocation, or restriction of the individual's license to practice the profession by competent authority in any state, federal, or foreign jurisdiction, a certified copy of the order or agreement being conclusive evidence of the revocation, suspension, or restriction;

(6) The possession, use, addiction to, prescription for use, diversion, or distribution of controlled substances or legend drugs in any way other than for legitimate or therapeutic purposes, or violation of any drug law;

(7) Violation of any state or federal statute or administrative rule regulating the profession in question, including any statute or rule defining or establishing standards of patient care or professional conduct or practice;

(8) Failure to cooperate with the disciplining authority by:
   (a) Not furnishing any papers or documents;
   (b) Not furnishing in writing a full and complete explanation covering the matter contained in the complaint filed with the disciplining authority; or
   (c) Not responding to subpoenas issued by the disciplining authority, whether or not the recipient of the subpoena is the accused in the proceeding;

(9) Failure to comply with an order issued by the disciplining authority;

(10) Aiding or abetting an unlicensed person to practice when a license is required;

(11) Willful or repeated violations of rules established by any health agency or authority of the state or a political subdivision thereof;

(12) Practice beyond the scope of practice as defined by law;

(13) Misrepresentation or fraud in any aspect of the conduct of the business or profession;

(14) Failure to adequately supervise auxiliary staff to the extent that the consumer's health or safety is at risk;

(15) Engaging in a profession involving contact with the public while suffering from a contagious or infectious disease involving serious risk to public health;

(16) Promotion for personal gain of any unnecessary or inefficacious drug, device, treatment, procedure, or service;

(17) Conviction of any gross misdemeanor or felony relating to the practice of the person's profession. For the purposes of this subsection, conviction includes all instances in which a plea of guilty or nolo contendere is the basis for conviction and all proceedings in which the sentence has been deferred or suspended. Nothing in this section abrogates rights guaranteed under chapter 9.96A RCW;

(18) The offering, undertaking, or agreeing to cure or treat disease by a secret method, procedure, treatment, or medicine, or the treating, operating, or prescribing for any health condition by a method, means, or procedure which the licensee refuses to divulge upon demand of the disciplining authority;

(19) Violation of chapter 19.68 RCW;

(20) Interference with an investigation or disciplinary proceeding by willful misrepresentation of facts before the disciplining authority or its authorized representative, or by the use of threats or harassment against any patient or witness to prevent them from providing evidence in a disciplinary proceeding or any other legal action;

(21) Any mental or physical condition which results in, or has a significant likelihood of resulting in, an inability to practice with reasonable skill and safety to consumers.

(22) Abuse of a client or patient or sexual contact resulting from abuse of the client–practitioner relationship.

Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 91-05-027 (Order 112B), recodified as § 246-847-160, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2) and 18.130.050(1). WSR 86-17-064 (Order PM 610), § 308-171-300, filed 8/19/86. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130(2) and 18.59.100. WSR 85-05-008 (Order PL 513), § 308-171-300, filed 2/11/85.

WAC 246-847-170 Code of ethics and standards of professional conduct. (1) It is the professional responsibility of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants to provide services for clients without regard to race, creed, national origin, gender, handicap or religious affiliation.

(2) Treatment objectives and the therapeutic process must be formulated to ensure professional accountability.

(3) Services shall be goal-directed in accordance with the overall educational, habilitation or rehabilitation plan and shall include a system to ensure professional accountability.

(4) Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants shall recommend termination of services when established goals have been met or when further services would not produce improved client performance.

(5) Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants shall accurately represent their competence, education, training and experience.

(6) Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants shall only provide services and use techniques for which they are qualified by education, training, and experience.

(7) Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants shall accurately record information and report information as required by facility standards and state and federal laws.

(8) All data recorded in permanent files or records shall be supported by the occupational therapist or the occupational therapy assistant’s observations or by objective measures of data collection.

(9) Client's records shall only be divulged as authorized by law or with the client's consent for release of information.

(10) Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants shall not delegate to other personnel those client-related services where the clinical skills and expertise of an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant are required.

(11) If, after evaluating the client, the case is a medical case, the occupational therapist shall refer the case to a physician for appropriate medical direction if such direction is lacking.
(a) Appropriate medical direction shall be sought on at least an annual basis.

(b) A case is not a medical case if the following is present:
   (i) There is an absence of pathology; or
   (ii) If a pathology exists, the pathology has stabilized; and
   (iii) The occupational therapist is only treating the client's functional deficits.

(12) Occupational therapists shall establish, review, or revise the client's treatment objectives at sufficient intervals to meet the client's needs. The occupational therapy assistant shall collaborate with the occupational therapist in this review of the client's treatment objectives.

WAC 246-847-180 Mandatory reporting. (1) All persons, including licensees, corporations, organizations, health care facilities, and state or local governmental agencies shall report to the board any conviction, determination, or finding that an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant has committed an act which constitutes unprofessional conduct as established in RCW 18.130.180 and shall report information which indicates that an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant may not be able to practice occupational therapy with reasonable skill and safety to consumers as a result of a mental or physical condition.

(2) All required reports shall be submitted to the board as soon as possible, but no later than sixty days after a conviction, determination, or finding is made or information is received.

(3) A report shall contain the following information if known:
   (a) The name, address, and telephone number of the person making the report.
   (b) The name, address, and telephone numbers of the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant being reported.
   (c) The case number of any patient or the name of the patient whose treatment is a subject of the report.
   (d) A brief description or summary of the facts which gave rise to the issuance of the report, including dates of occurrences.
   (e) If court action is involved, the name of the court in which the action is filed along with the date of filing and cause number.
   (f) Any further information which would aid in the evaluation of the report.

WAC 246-847-190 AIDS education and training. Applicants must complete seven clock hours of AIDS education as required in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 8.

WAC 246-847-210 Unprofessional conduct—Sexual misconduct. (1) The occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant shall never engage in sexual contact or sexual activity with current clients.

(2) Sexual contact or sexual activity is prohibited with a former client for two years after cessation or termination of professional services.

(3) The occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant shall never engage in sexual contact or sexual activity with former clients if such contact or activity involves the abuse of the occupational therapy practitioner-client relationship. Factors which the board may consider in evaluating if the occupational therapy practitioner-client relationship has been abusive includes, but is not limited to:
   (a) The amount of time that has passed since therapy terminated;
   (b) The nature and duration of the therapy;
   (c) The circumstances of cessation or termination;
   (d) The former client's personal history;
   (e) The former client's current mental status;
   (f) The likelihood of adverse impact on the former client and others; and
   (g) Any statements or actions made by the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant during the course of therapy suggesting or inviting the possibility of a post-termination sexual or romantic relationship with the former client.

(4) These rules do not prohibit:
   (a) The provision of occupational therapy services on an urgent, unforeseen basis where circumstances will not allow an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant to obtain reassignment or make an appropriate referral;
   (b) The provision of occupational therapy services to a spouse or any other person who is in a preexisting, established relationship with the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant where no evidence of abuse of the occupational therapy practitioner-client relationship exists.

WAC 246-847-340 Philosophy governing voluntary substance abuse monitoring programs. The board recognizes the need to establish a means of proactively providing early recognition and treatment options for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants whose competency may be impaired due to the abuse of drugs or alcohol. The board intends that such occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants be treated and their treatment monitored so that they can return to or continue to practice their
profession in a way which safeguards the public. To accomplish this the board shall approve voluntary substance abuse monitoring programs and shall refer occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants impaired by substance abuse to approved programs as an alternative to instituting disciplinary proceedings as defined in RCW 18.130.160.

WAC 246-847-350 Terms used in WAC 246-847-340 through 246-847-370. (1) "Approved substance abuse monitoring program" or "approved monitoring program" is a program the board has determined meets the requirements of the law and the criteria established by the board in WAC 246-915-320 which enters into a contract with occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants who have substance abuse problems regarding the required components of the occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's recovery activity and oversees the occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's compliance with these requirements. Substance abuse monitoring programs do not provide evaluation or treatment to participating occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants.

(2) "Contract" is a comprehensive, structured agreement between the recovering occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant and the approved monitoring program stipulating the occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's consent to comply with the monitoring program and its required components of the occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's recovery activity.

(3) "Approved treatment facility" is a facility approved by the bureau of alcohol and substance abuse, department of social and health services according to RCW 70.96A.020(2) or 69.54.030 to provide intensive alcoholism or drug treatment if located within Washington state. Drug and alcohol treatment programs located out-of-state must be equivalent to the standards required for approval under RCW 70.96A.020 (2) or 69.54.030.

(4) "Substance abuse" means the impairment, as determined by the board, of a occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's professional services by an addiction to, a dependency on, or the use of alcohol, legend drugs, or controlled substances.

(5) "Aftercare" is that period of time after intensive treatment that provides the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant and the occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's family with group or individual counseling sessions, discussions with other families, ongoing contact and participation in self-help groups and ongoing continued support of treatment program staff.

(6) "Support group" is a group of health care professionals meeting regularly to support the recovery of its members. The group provides a confidential setting with a trained and experienced health care professional facilitator in which occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant may safely discuss drug diversion, licensure issues, return to work and other professional issues related to recovery.

(7) "Twelve steps groups" are groups such as alcoholics anonymous, narcotics anonymous, and related organizations based on a philosophy of anonymity, belief in a power outside of oneself, a peer group association, and self-help.

WAC 246-847-360 Approval of substance abuse monitoring programs. The board will approve the monitoring program(s) which will participate in the board's substance abuse monitoring program. A monitoring program approved by the board may be contracted with an entity outside the department but within the state, out-of-state, or a separate structure within the department.

(1) The approved monitoring program will not provide evaluation or treatment to the participating occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants.

(2) The approved monitoring program staff must have the qualifications and knowledge of both substance abuse and the practice of occupational therapy as defined in this chapter to be able to evaluate:
   (a) Clinical laboratories;
   (b) Laboratory results;
   (c) Providers of substance abuse treatment, both individuals and facilities;
   (d) Support groups;
   (e) The occupational therapy work environment; and
   (f) The ability of the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

(3) The approved monitoring program will enter into a contract with the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant and the board to oversee the occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's compliance with the requirements of the program.

(4) The approved monitoring program may make exceptions to individual components of the contract on an individual basis.

(5) The approved monitoring program staff will determine, on an individual basis, whether an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant will be prohibited from engaging in the practice of occupational therapy for a period of time and restrictions, if any, on the occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's access to controlled substances in the workplace.

(6) The approved monitoring program shall maintain records on participants.

(7) The approved monitoring program will be responsible for providing feedback to the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant as to whether treatment progress is acceptable.

(8) The approved monitoring program shall report to the board any occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant who fails to comply with the requirement of the monitoring program.

(9) The approved monitoring program shall receive from the board guidelines on treatment, monitoring, and limita-
tions on the practice of occupational therapy for those participating in the program.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 92-18-015 (Order 300B), § 246-847-360, filed 8/24/92, effective 9/24/92.]

WAC 246-847-370 Participation in approved substance abuse monitoring program. (1) In lieu of disciplinary action, the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant may accept board referral into the approved substance abuse monitoring program.

(a) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall undergo a complete physical and psychosocial evaluation before entering the approved monitoring program. This evaluation will be performed by health care professional(s) with expertise in chemical dependency. The person(s) performing the evaluation shall not also be the provider of the recommended treatment.

(b) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall enter into a contract with the board and the approved substance abuse monitoring program to comply with the requirements of the program which shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant will submit to random drug screening as specified by the approved monitoring program.

(ii) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant will undergo intensive substance abuse treatment in an approved treatment facility.

(iii) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant must complete the prescribed aftercare program of the intensive treatment facility, which may include individual and/or group psychotherapy.

(iv) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant must cause the treatment counselor(s) to provide reports to the approved monitoring program at specified intervals. Reports shall include treatment, prognosis and goals.

(v) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant will submit to random drug screening as specified by the approved monitoring program.

(vi) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant will attend support groups facilitated by a health care professional and/or twelve step group meetings as specified by the contract.

(vii) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant will comply with specified employment conditions and restrictions as defined by the contract.

(viii) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall sign a waiver allowing the approved monitoring program to release information to the board if the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant does not comply with the requirements of this contract.

(c) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant is responsible for paying the costs of the physical and psychosocial evaluation, substance abuse treatment, and random drug screens.

(d) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant may be subject to disciplinary action under RCW 18.130.160 if the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant does not consent to be referred to the approved monitoring program, does not comply with specified employment restrictions, or does not successfully complete the program.

(2) An occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant who is not being investigated by the board or subject to current disciplinary action or currently being monitored by the board for substance abuse may voluntarily participate in the approved substance abuse monitoring program without being referred by the board. Such voluntary participants shall not be subject to disciplinary action under RCW 18.130.160 for their substance abuse, and shall not have their participation made known to the board if they meet the requirements of the approved monitoring program:

(a) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall undergo a complete physical and psychosocial evaluation before entering the approved monitoring program. This evaluation will be performed by health care professional(s) with expertise in chemical dependency. The person(s) performing the evaluation shall not also be the provider of the recommended treatment.

(b) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall enter into a contract with the approved substance abuse monitoring program to comply with the requirements of the program which shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant will undergo intensive substance abuse treatment in an approved treatment facility.

(ii) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant will agree to remain free of all mind-altering substances including alcohol except for medications prescribed by an authorized prescriber, as defined in RCW 69.41.030 and 69.50.101.

(iii) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant must complete the prescribed aftercare program of the intensive treatment facility, which may include individual and/or group psychotherapy.

(iv) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant must cause the treatment counselor(s) to provide reports to the approved monitoring program at specified intervals. Reports shall include treatment, prognosis and goals.

(v) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant will submit to random drug screening as specified by the approved monitoring program.

(vi) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant will attend support groups facilitated by a health care professional and/or twelve step group meetings as specified by the contract.

(vii) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant will comply with specified employment conditions and restrictions as defined by the contract.

(viii) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall sign a waiver allowing the approved monitoring program to release information to the board if the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant does not comply with the requirements of this contract.

(c) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant is responsible for paying the costs of the physical

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and psychosocial evaluation, substance abuse treatment, and random drug screens.

(3) The treatment and pretreatment records of license holders referred to or voluntarily participating in approved monitoring programs shall be confidential, shall be exempt from RCW 42.17.250 through 42.17.450 and shall not be subject to discovery by subpoena or admissible as evidence except for monitoring records reported to the disciplinary authority for cause as defined in subsections (1) and (2) of this section. Records held by the board under this section shall be exempt from RCW 42.17.250 through 42.17.450 and shall not be subject to discovery by subpoena except by the license holder.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.59.130. WSR 92-18-015 (Order 300B), § 246-847-370, filed 8/24/92, effective 9/24/92.]

**WAC 246-847-990 Occupational therapy fees and renewal cycle.** (1) Licenses must be renewed every two years on the practitioner's birthday as provided in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

(2) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged for occupational therapist:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Fee</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application and initial license fee</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License renewal</td>
<td>145.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEAL-WA* surcharge - Initial license and renewal ($16.00 per year for two-year cycle)</td>
<td>32.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited permit fee</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late renewal fee</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expired license reissuance</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inactive license</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expired inactive license reissuance</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duplicate license</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification of license</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) The following nonrefundable fees will be charged for occupational therapy assistant:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Fee</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application and initial license fee</td>
<td>175.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License renewal</td>
<td>125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEAL-WA* surcharge - Initial license and renewal ($16.00 per year for two-year cycle)</td>
<td>32.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late renewal fee</td>
<td>70.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expired license reissuance</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inactive license</td>
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<td>Expired inactive license reissuance</td>
<td>14.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited permit fee</td>
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<td>Duplicate license</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification of license</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* HEAL-WA is the health resources for Washington online library. See RCW 43.70.110.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280 and 2013 c 249. WSR 13-21-077, § 246-847-990, filed 10/17/13, effective 1/1/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.110, 43.70.250, and 2011 1st sp.s. c 50. WSR 11-20-092, § 246-847-990, filed 10/4/11, effective 12/1/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.110, 43.70.250, 2008 c 329. WSR 08-15-014, § 246-847-990, filed 7/7/08, effective 7/7/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.250, [43.70.280 and 43.70.110. WSR 05-12-012, § 246-847-990, filed 5/20/05, effective 7/1/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.250. WSR 99-08-101, § 246-847-990, filed 4/6/99, effective 7/1/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280. WSR 98-05-060, § 246-847-990, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.250 and chapters 18.57, 18.57A, 18.22 and 18.59 RCW. WSR 94-22-055, § 246-847-990, filed 11/1/94, effective 1/1/95. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.250. WSR 91-13-002 (Order 173), § 246-847-990, filed 6/6/91, effective 7/7/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-05-030 (Order 135), recodified as § 246-847-990, filed 2/12/91, effective 3/15/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.24.086. WSR 87-10-028 (Order PM 650), § 308-171-310, filed 5/1/87.]