

COMPETENCIES, CRITERIA, AND CLIENT OUTCOMES

Specialty Certification in Environmental Modification

Occupational Therapy Assistant

This document represents the competencies and criteria that applicants must use for building their certification portfolio. Complete information about the requirements for certification and instructions on how to complete a certification application can be found in the Environmental Modification Specialty Certification Handbook for occupational therapy assistants.

COMPETENCY A

Contributes to the completion of a customized occupational therapy evaluation of the interaction among the client’s contexts, environments, and occupational performance to determine environmental modification interventions.

Client Outcome: Client will have an awareness of features that support and barriers that inhibit occupational performance, safety, and participation through collaboration in the evaluation process.

Standard	Criteria
Knowledge	A1. Has knowledge of relevant environmental design theories (e.g., environmental press theory) and commonly used terminology (e.g., accessible, adaptability, visitability, universal design, ergonomics, meaning of objects, meaning of home, place attachment).
Knowledge	A2. Has knowledge of relevant environmental assessment tools and methods.
Knowledge	A3. Has knowledge of federal, state, local, and agency regulations and policies and relevant funding sources that may affect the delivery of environmental modification services.
Critical Reasoning	A4. Contributes to the analysis of the client’s relevant contexts and environments and performance patterns to identify support for and barriers to occupational performance.
Performance Skills	A5. Demonstrates competence in administration of delegated environmental modification assessments.
Interpersonal Skills	A6. Establishes a collaborative relationship with the client that facilitates assessment of personal space (i.e., physical context), values, and other relevant contexts and environments and performance patterns.
Ethical Reasoning	A7. Negotiates delivery of environmental modification services in collaboration with the occupational therapist.

COMPETENCY B

Contributes to the development and implementation of a customized occupational therapy environmental modification plan that reflects the client's relevant contexts and environments and maximizes his or her current and future occupational performance, safety, and participation.

Client Outcome: Clients receive environmental modification recommendations that enable them to meet current occupational performance and participation goals and that have adequate flexibility to accommodate for their future needs.

Standard	Criteria
Knowledge	B1. Has knowledge of relevant resources, equipment, adaptive technique and evidence regarding how the environment affects development, disability, and aging.
Critical Reasoning	B2. Identifies relevant assessment data from delegated assessments and contributes to the development of a customized intervention plan for environmental modification.
Critical Reasoning	B3. Identifies how federal, state, local, and agency regulatory, policy, and funding factors may affect environmental modification recommendations and develops alternatives in conjunction with the occupational therapist as needed.
Critical Reasoning	B4. Identifies when changes in performance skills, client factors, and contexts and environments might affect the established environmental modification intervention plan and communicates with the occupational therapist to modify the plan as needed.
Interpersonal Skills	B5. Promotes collaboration among the client and other team members to establish a realistic and strategic environmental modification plan that meets the needs of the client's contexts and environments, safety, and occupational performance.
Performance Skills	B6. Incorporates knowledge from multiple sources regarding relevant and currently available products and assistive technologies that enhance occupational performance safety and participation.
Performance Skills	B7. Documents environmental modification recommendations and communicates those recommendations to team members, including client, using terminology relevant to each team member.
Ethical Reasoning	B8. Resolves conflicts pertaining to safety considerations, regulatory agencies, payer sources, and desires of the client when developing an environmental intervention plan.

COMPETENCY C

Contributes to the follow-up training and evaluation of services in order to maximize the client's current and future occupational performance, safety, and participation.

Client Outcome: Clients will benefit from environmental modification interventions that fit with their values and beliefs and that they are trained to effectively use to enable them to meet occupational performance and participation goals.

Standard	Criteria
Knowledge	C1. Has knowledge of methods to evaluate programs and service delivery appropriate for population served and occupational therapy outcomes relevant to environmental modification.
Critical Reasoning	C2. Identifies and selects assistive technologies, adaptive techniques, and environmental modifications within the established intervention plan that maximize occupational performance, safety, and participation.
Interpersonal Skills	C3. Collaborates with occupational therapist, clients, and team members to critically review evaluation outcomes for environmental modification program and service delivery and modify occupational therapy service delivery.
Performance Skills	C4. Identifies resources to update occupational therapy environmental modification service delivery.
Performance Skills	C5. Educates the client regarding potential changes in occupational performance that may necessitate additional services, resources, or environmental modifications.
Performance Skills	C6. Provides information, resources, and referrals that assist the client in independently exploring additional environmental modification and assistive technology solutions.
Ethical Reasoning	C7. Differentiates between the role and scope of practice of the occupational therapy environmental modification OT and OTA specialist and that of other members of the team who address environmental modification.

COMPETENCY D

Advances access to occupational therapy services and advocates for policies, programs, and products that promote occupational performance, safety, and participation in the environment.

Client Outcome: Clients have access to occupational therapy environmental modification services and other services, programs, and products that promote optimal engagement in occupations in relevant physical contexts and environments.

Standard	Criteria
Knowledge	D1. Has knowledge of relevant environmental modification stakeholders.
Critical Reasoning	D2. With consultation from the occupational therapist, analyzes evolving practice developments, trends, and evidence in order to prioritize and promote access to environments and opportunities for participation.
Interpersonal Skills	D3. With consultation from the occupational therapist, collaborates with key decision makers at the organizational, local, state, or national level to advocate or develop policies, products, and services that optimize occupational performance and reduce environmental and activity demands.
Performance Skills	D4. Educates the public and other professionals regarding the effects of environment on occupational performance and the efficacy of occupational therapy environmental modification services.
Performance Skills	D5. With consultation from the occupational therapist, establishes and collaborates with a referral and resource network inside and outside the health care community to meet the client's environmental modification needs.
Ethical Reasoning	D6. With consultation from the occupational therapist, uses ethical decision making to advocate for needed services when they are not available or are denied.