

Re-Entry into Occupational Therapy Practice

In 2004 the Board reconsidered the issue of applicants for licensure in Oregon who have not been licensed or have not practiced as an Occupational Therapist (or Assistant) for a long period of time. What should the Board require of a person who has not practiced occupational therapy for over three years to ensure the safety of the public?

Issues that came up for applicants who need to relearn the educational and practical skills necessary to practice occupational therapy safely in the state were:

- The applicant was not licensed so could not do any “hands on” work with patients.
- There were issues of liability and insurance.
- Without any uniform program, the board had a hard time determining the applicant was ready to work safely as an OT again. There were applications the board considered who had not worked or been licensed for ten years.

The Board’s primary mission is to protect the public by supervising occupational therapy practice and to assure safe and ethical delivery of occupational therapy services.

John White, Director of Pacific University, School of Occupational Therapy developed a Re-Entry program to help with the educational and practical skills needed. The legal requirements were added to ORS 675.240 and 675.250 as Qualifications for licensing as occupational therapist and assistant. The Rules were adopted in 2007. Many Occupational Therapists have now completed the Re-Entry Program and been licensed.

The following Pacific University link gives information about the Re-Entry program:
<http://www.pacificu.edu/ot/program/Re-entryProgram.cfm>

Please also contact Director Felicia Holgate so we also can give you information on what will be needed for licensing in Oregon. Call 971-673-0198 or e-mail Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us

Re-entry programs: OT639 and OT439 semester dates:

Fall 2009: Course begins on August 24, 2009
Registration open from July 1 to August 15, 2009

Spring 2010: Course begins on January 11, 2010
Registration open from December 1 to January 6, 2010

Fall 2010: Course begins on August 23, 2010
Registration open from July 1 to August 15, 2010

Spring 2011: Course begins on January 10, 2011
Registration open from December 1, 2010 to January 5, 2011