



Department of Occupational Therapy

Policy 10.0. *Professional Behavior*

POLICY PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for faculty facilitation of expected professionalism in all classroom, laboratory, fieldwork, and related interactions.

POLICY STATEMENT

Occupational therapy graduate students are expected to exhibit professional behavior at all times.

PROCESS + PROCEDURES

1. The student will be informed of the AU Code of Conduct:
<https://www.augusta.edu/student-life/conduct/documents/aucodeofconductmidyearupdate201819.pdf>
2. All OT students are responsible for self-governance of professional behaviors in all classroom, laboratory, fieldwork activities and interactions. Faculty members are to document any unprofessional behavior incidence and place the documentation in the student's file. Documentation is to be dated and signed.
3. Faculty members are to expect students to display professionalism at all times. If professional behavior is not displayed, the student will be counseled and expectations for behavior will be documented and shared with the student.
4. The student must demonstrate the ability to manage personal issues and not allow interference with the ability to fully participate in educational, laboratory, fieldwork, and service expectations. If a student is experiencing personal difficulties that make it difficult to optimally perform or care for clients' needs; the student may be asked to withdraw from the program until the student is able to fully participate in the program allowing for quality work, academic achievement, client safety, and professional performance. Depending on the severity of the professionalism issue, the student may be denied re-entry into the program.
5. Students must demonstrate professionalism in all interactions. Students are expected to promote professional behavior when giving and receiving feedback or when differences occur. OT students must demonstrate respect for all individuals in all interactions (oral and written). Faculty will role model and facilitate the expected behaviors.
6. Professionalism, or personal, issues that impede performance and safety in client care may result in the immediate removal of the student from client care/fieldwork experiences.



7. Students must adhere to HIPAA requirements and consistently protect client confidentiality.
8. When failure to comply with expected professionalism occurs, remediation at the discretion of course faculty will be completed. If concerns with professionalism continue, representatives from the Departmental Review Body will review the behavior(s) and make recommendations including probation, suspension, or dismissal from the program. These recommendations will be given to the Program Director and the Chair of the Department, who will make the final decision.

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