

Competencies for Occupational Therapists in Canada

Information from the Competency development Planning Committee

1. The commitment to developing a single competency document was grounded in the belief that this would clarify occupational therapy as a profession in Canada. The goal was to reduce confusion, ensure consistency, and avoid duplication.
2. Three national Occupational Therapy organizations worked together to oversee the development of "*Competencies for Occupational Therapists in Canada*". Moving from multiple to one competency document has been a significant achievement and integrates important aspects of the profession – education, regulation, examination, and accreditation.
3. The competencies reflect the broad range of skills and abilities required of all occupational therapists in Canada throughout their careers. They address all practice settings, roles, and client populations. The competencies are applied and interpreted within the context of the occupational therapist's practice and the client's situation.
4. The competencies are grouped thematically into six domains, each representing an important aspect of occupational therapy practice. Each domain contains a description and several competency statements outlining what is expected of every Occupational Therapist. Indicators provide additional clarification as to intent and expectations.
5. The competencies may look familiar to you as many of today's competencies continue to be relevant. We are excited about the introduction of a new domain that acknowledges the presence and impact of systemic racism in Canada. It was challenging but important to develop competencies that promote anti-racist, anti-ableist, and anti-oppressive behaviour. These competencies represent an early and critical step toward dismantling the structures that privilege some people over others.
6. The competencies will be implemented over the next few years. Reach out to your professional association or local regulatory college for more information and resources to help you understand the competencies.
7. Each of the three national occupational therapy organizations is fully committed to facilitating the use of these competencies to advance safe, effective and ethical care to individuals served by occupational therapists.