



Faculty of Health Science
School of Rehabilitation Science
Institute for Applied Health Sciences
1400 Main St West, Room 403
Hamilton, ON L8S 1C7

INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PARTICIPATION IN A RESEARCH STUDY

Title: The Occupational Therapy Examination and Practice Preparation (OTepp) Program

Provincial Principal Investigator: Prof. Sue Baptiste, MHSc., OT Reg (Ont)

Provincially Funded by: Government of Ontario, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

National Principal Investigator: Claudia von Zweck, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT)

National Co-Principal Investigator: Prof. Sue Baptiste, MHSc., OT Reg (Ont)

Nationally Funded by: Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, through the Foreign Credential Recognition Project

Why is this Study being done?

You are being invited to participate in a research project called “**The Occupational Therapy Examination and Practice Preparation Program**” (OTepp) because you have been identified as an internationally educated occupational therapist or re-entry candidate who wishes to write the national certification exam and qualify to practice occupational therapy in Canada. This project focuses on the development and evaluation of a needs assessment, modules and course curriculum to prepare internationally educated occupational therapists to pass the Canadian national certification exam and transition into Canadian occupational therapy (OT) practice.

What will happen during the study?

As a participant in this study, you will be asked to participate in a needs assessment to determine course and module selection. Different OT programmes offer diverse curriculum. The needs assessment will therefore determine your pre-existing knowledge relevant to current Canadian OT practice. The results of the needs assessment will be reviewed with you so that you can decide in partnership with a member of the investigative team if the modules and course curriculum offered through the McMaster University School of Rehabilitation Science will meet your specific needs. The content of the courses will focus on gaining knowledge of OT theoretical practice frameworks, applying ethics and evidence in practice, participating in a supervised practice opportunity and understanding core information as outlined in the national examination blueprint. The modules will address work readiness skills, career guidance and professional language and communication skills.

The courses and modules will be taught in small group, self-directed, problem-based learning fashion using a combination of face-to-face, on-line, and telephone conferences with written resource

materials. If you agree to participate in this project and the curriculum and learning modules you will be followed for 18 to 24 months to allow communication with you regarding your examination results and experiences following the project.

You will also be asked to participate in individual interviews and to provide feedback regarding your experience. You will be required to submit various reports and assignments as part of participation in the courses and modules. That will be used for data with respect to the curriculum development process.

How many people will be in this study?

There will be approximately 10 participants in each study group. It is expected up to 30 participants will participate in the preparatory courses each time the curriculum is offered.

Are there any risks?

Participants who start the program may not complete all courses and the modules. Reasons for not continuing in the program may include not achieving the required 60% minimum grade. Participants also may choose to discontinue due to feelings of inadequacy or fear, changing learning needs and/or due to unexpected personal circumstances. Participants who pose a serious safety risk to members of the public may be reported to the provincial regulatory body.

Are there any benefits?

The direct benefit from participation in this study is the ability to enhance your preparation for the national certification exam and entry into professional practice. Successful completion of the coursework and modules will result in a McMaster Certificate of Completion. Participation in the learning groups will also encourage professional networking and the development of supportive relationships. Ontario participants also may have their hours recognized by the provincial regulatory body. The benefits to the occupational therapy profession from this project are that it may help develop an effective strategy for optimizing recruitment, retention and career satisfaction.

Will I receive payment for participating?

There is no payment for participation in this study.

Will there be any costs to me?

There is a cost to park on campus if you attend classes face to face. You are strongly encouraged to purchase the recommended textbooks, Enabling Occupation I and II.

What will happen to my information?

There is no way that group work and class discussions can be kept fully confidential or anonymous. Participants will be encouraged to keep opinions and information revealed within the study groups confidential. All data collected will be confidential. At no time will your name be identified in any written reports or subsequent presentations of the study results. Any identifying information will be anonymized. Information such as audiotapes will be kept in a locked office on a password protected computer as well as a locked filing cabinet. Only the research team will have access to the data. It will be kept for 10 years and then destroyed.

Can I end my participation early?

You can end your participation in the project at any time. Your voluntary participation in this collaborative project is important to its success over time however you are able to withdraw from

participation in the curriculum and the research project should you choose. If you choose to participate any concerns that you may experience will be addressed swiftly by the research team.

If I have a question who should I call?

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact:

Prof. Susan Baptiste, MHSc, OT Reg (Ont), McMaster University, School of Rehabilitation Science

Telephone: 905-525-9140 Ext. 27804

E-mail: baptiste@mcmaster.ca

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant you may contact
Office of the Chair of the Hamilton Health Sciences/Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics
Board
905.521-2100 x 42013

CONSENT STATEMENT

I have read the above information carefully and thoroughly. I have had the opportunity to ask questions, and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

I consent to participate in this study.

I consent to allow the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) to release my examination results directly to OTepp.

I consent to allow a member of the OTepp research team to contact me to learn if I write the CAOT examination even if I choose not to participate in the OTepp curriculum.

I understand that I will receive a signed copy of this information form.

Name of Participant

Signature of Participant

Date

Consent form administered and explained in person by:

Name and title

Signature

Date