Mission Statements

Preamble

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston’s [UTMB Health] mission is to improve health for the people of Texas and around the world. UTMB is an inclusive, collaborative community of forward thinking educators, scientists, clinicians, staff and students dedicated to a single purpose—improving health. We prepare future health professionals for practice, public service and lifelong learning through innovative curricula and individualized educational experiences. We advance understanding and treatment of illness and injury through groundbreaking research, in the lab and at the bedside, including commercialization of such research as appropriate. We deliver skilled and patient-centered health care. And we continue to shape the future of health sciences education, research and clinical care by always asking, “What’s next?”

Mission

UTMB’s mission is to improve health for the people of Texas and around the world.

Vision

We work together to work wonders as we define the future of health care and strive to be the best in all of our endeavors.

Values

Our values define our culture and guide our every interaction.

- We demonstrate **compassion** for all.
- We always act with **integrity**.
- We show **respect** to everyone we meet.
- We embrace **diversity** to best serve a global community.
- We promote excellence and innovation through **lifelong learning**.
The School of Health Professions

The mission of the School of Health Professions is to provide and promote quality education, research, and service in an environment that fosters collaboration and mutual respect.

The School of Health Professions:
- provides multi-level educational programs for a diverse group of students, colleagues, and members of the community,
- facilitates student and faculty involvement in scientific investigation and scholarly activities that advance health care, and
- promotes service through active participation in professional and community activities.

The Department of Occupational Therapy

The mission of the Department of Occupational Therapy is to foster a community of educators, scholars, master practitioners, and community leaders in the discipline of occupational science and the profession of occupational therapy that will generate, apply, and disseminate knowledge about occupation for the enhancement of societal health and the enrichment of professional practice.

Statement of Purpose

The Department is committed to the following aims:

- educating occupational therapists who function as master practitioners, community leaders, educators, and scholars in the profession of occupational therapy and the discipline of occupational sciences.

- engaging in scholarly work and participating in scientific inquiry that will discover, generate, develop, refine, test, and evaluate new knowledge as well as applications of knowledge in occupational science and occupational therapy (Abreu, Peloquin, & Ottenbacher, 1998);

- disseminating new knowledge and applied knowledge about occupation and health to occupational therapists, other health professionals, occupational scientists, educators and scholars in other academic disciplines, and the general public.
Statement of Values

Furthermore, the Department commits to upholding the following values to facilitate creation of a context in which a community of educators, scholars, master practitioners, and community leaders can emerge and thrive.

- a sensitivity to process as well as to outcome;
- a commitment to mutual respect, inclusion, and diversity;
- an openness to collegial relationships;
- a high regard for satisfaction, meaning, and balance in the work place;
- a commitment to proactive action and forthright discussion;
- a striving for high standards of professional behavior; and
- meritorious performance in education, scholarly inquiry, professional practice, and service.

Philosophy Statement

The Department of Occupational Therapy holds the following beliefs about persons, occupational therapy, and professional education.

Persons

Persons are characterized by the confluence of thoughts, feelings, and actions with which they engage with the world. They are occupational beings who seek and express personal meaning through the unique ways in which they occupy themselves. Wellness, self-actualization, and a sense of belonging often associate with the occupations through which individuals develop, achieve mastery, and establish community within ever-changing environments. By nature, persons are disposed to both experiencing and remaking the world through an interplay that is in large measure occupational.

Persons who thrive in the world display a resilience that allows adaptation, a capacity for reflection that fosters understanding, an empathic disposition that helps them connect with others, and a personal integrity that earns respect.

Occupational Therapy

An individual's capacity to engage with the world through occupation (occupational performance) can be enabled, challenged, or compromised through the dynamic interaction of person, environment, and occupation. Occupational performance challenges may stem from problems in thinking, feeling, or acting or may derive from physical, emotional, cognitive, developmental, or environmental constraints. For help in establishing, enhancing, altering, or restoring a repertoire of meaningful occupations, an individual, family, institution, or community can turn to occupational therapy. Centered on and directed by the client's articulation of that which is meaningful, the clinical reasoning process of occupational therapy targets the achievement of a satisfying
degree of mastery and interdependence; the therapeutic relationship evokes an adaptive resilience.

An occupational therapist brings professional knowledge and skill to an interactive partnership; the client in need brings personal strengths along with the request for help. A therapist first engages in an analysis of occupational performance challenges and the occupations that are deemed valuable. The therapist then synthesizes purposeful activity or occupation-as-means, supportive environment, and caring presence in a client-centered, dynamic interplay that fosters engagement in meaningful occupation.

Professional Education

Professional education is a meaningful occupation wherein the potential for mastery and community is accessible to both educators and learners. An educational process that aims to develop a professional who is capable of clinical reasoning as well as collaborative relationships must cultivate a confluence of cognition, affect, and experience.

The outcome of the educational process in occupational therapy is an entry-level practitioner who applies professional knowledge and understanding in ever-changing practice settings. Educators who foster the development of such a professional must inspire students to acquire a broad base of understanding about wellness, the occupational nature of persons, the meaning of occupational performance challenges in a life, and the dynamic quality of systems. Educators must further lead students to acquire the profession's knowledge and ethos: a discovery of those principles, theories, skills, and attitudes from the sciences and the liberal arts that make practice effective and ethical.

Given the various arenas that support occupational therapy practice, the fundamentals with which practitioners must emerge from educational environments are the capacity to learn independently, to commit to self-directed and lifelong learning, to think critically, to manage effectively, to relate interpersonally, and to respond to the challenges of practice with the resilience, reflection, empathy, and integrity that characterize the profession's science and artistry.