

Mara Poole

Adjunct Faculty, Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Instructor

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STRENGTHS

- 🗣️ **Clinical Teaching**
Case discussions turned difficult treatment choices into practical learning moments, and students gained confidence explaining their reasoning.
- ✅ **Fair Evaluation**
Direct observation and clear rubrics made expectations visible, helping learners focus feedback on specific clinical behaviors.
- 🗣️ **Clear Communication**
Complex rehabilitation ideas became accessible through demonstrations and plain explanations, giving each audience a useful next step.
- 📁 **Resource Organization**
Teaching equipment and materials were prepared before sessions, so learners could spend more time practicing instead of waiting.
- 👥 **Collaborative Practice**
Case reviews with therapy, nursing, and care management colleagues connected shared goals and gave students a broader clinical view.

SKILLS

Occupational Therapy

OTA Education Adult Rehabilitation

Clinical Instruction

Syllabus Development

Guided Discussions Presentations

Performance Evaluation

Competency Assessment

Rubric Development

Fieldwork Education

Activity Analysis

SUMMARY

Licensed Occupational Therapist with eight years of experience across adult rehabilitation, OTA clinical education, staff development, and classroom aligned instruction. Holds a **Master of Occupational Therapy** and active Illinois Occupational Therapist and NBCOT Occupational Therapist credentials. Develops structured lessons, **case based exercises**, guided discussions, demonstrations, competency checks, evaluation rubrics, and practical learning activities that connect **therapeutic activity analysis** with safe clinical application. Fieldwork educator experienced in setting **learning expectations**, evaluating student performance, giving constructive feedback, and maintaining organized equipment and instructional materials. Communicates rehabilitation concepts clearly with students, clinicians, patients, and interdisciplinary partners. Brings a thoughtful, organized approach to part time adjunct instruction, with genuine interest in helping OTA students build sound clinical reasoning and confident professional practice.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Occupational Therapist and Clinical Educator

Lakeview Rehabilitation Partners 📅 July 2023 - Present 📍 Naperville, IL

Lead **adult rehabilitation** services and clinical education for OTA students and rehabilitation staff. Support structured learning through lessons, demonstrations, case discussions, competency activities, evaluation rubrics, and organized teaching resources. Connect functional assessment with occupation based intervention planning and safe clinical practice.

- Connected **functional assessment** findings with occupation based intervention plans for OTA student case discussions.
- Created structured lessons and skills demonstrations, giving learners repeated practice with **clinical reasoning**.
- Developed learning objectives, handouts, equipment demonstrations, and rubrics for consistent student **evaluation**.
- Evaluated learners through observation, documentation review, case **presentations**, and practical skills checks.
- Maintained therapy **equipment** and teaching materials before scheduled education sessions and supervised practice.
- Presented rehabilitation concepts clearly for students, clinicians, patients, and interdisciplinary partners.

Occupational Therapist

Fox River Therapy Center 📅 June 2020 - June 2023 📍 Aurora, IL

Delivered adult occupational therapy while supervising OTA fieldwork learners and supporting case based **clinical education**. Built learning exercises from rehabilitation presentations, assessed documentation and treatment performance, organized adaptive equipment, and modeled **interdisciplinary communication** across patient care settings.

- Translated adult orthopedic and neurologic evaluations into individualized plans for daily activity participation.
- Supervised OTA fieldwork learners through weekly priorities, guided questions, and treatment safety reviews.
- Built **case based exercises** that strengthened intervention selection, activity adaptation, and clinical rationale.
- Assessed student documentation and treatment performance against defined criteria, clarifying next step expectations.
- Organized adaptive equipment and reference resources for demonstrations, treatment, and supervised learning sessions.
- Coordinated with therapy, nursing, and care management teams around shared patient goals.

Occupational Therapist

Prairie Grove Medical Center 📅 August 2018 - May 2020 📍 Joliet, IL

Functional Assessment

Intervention Planning

Oral Communication

LANGUAGES

English Native

Spanish Intermediate

MY CAREER



● Senior Occupational Therapist and Clinical Educator at Lakeview Rehabilitation Partners (3.2 Years)

● Occupational Therapist at Fox River Therapy Center (3 Years)

● Occupational Therapist at Prairie Grove Medical Center (1.8 Years)

● Occupational Therapist at Midwest Community Rehabilitation (10 Months)

Provided occupational therapy across inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation while guiding OTA practitioners, students, and clinical peers. Combined functional assessment, therapeutic activity planning, in service education, documentation review, equipment readiness, and practical discussion for safe patient centered care.

- Evaluated functional performance and established occupation centered goals with rehabilitation care teams.
- Delivered therapeutic activities addressing self care, cognition, mobility, upper extremity use, and home participation.
- Guided OTA practitioners and students through precautions, treatment rationale, documentation, and intervention progression.
- Led in service sessions on adaptive equipment, **functional assessment**, and safe activity modification.
- Reviewed learner and peer documentation, reinforcing clear clinical communication through specific examples.
- Maintained treatment equipment and **instructional materials** before patient care and education activities.

Occupational Therapist

Midwest Community Rehabilitation 📅 September 2017 - July 2018 📍 Rockford, IL

Provided supervised occupational therapy for adults recovering from illness, injury, and functional decline. Supported OTA team members through case review, prepared caregiver education, explained intervention safety, and maintained documentation and treatment resources that supported consistent clinical learning.

- Applied evaluation findings to practical daily living goals for adults recovering from illness and injury.
- Developed therapeutic activities and adaptive strategies around patient priorities and functional outcomes.
- Explained intervention purpose, safety considerations, and home recommendations using clear verbal instruction.
- Supported OTA team members through case review and treatment plan clarification.
- Prepared caregiver materials and small learning sessions around observable skills and functional outcomes.
- Maintained accurate documentation and orderly treatment resources for consistent clinical practice.

PROJECTS

OTA Clinical Reasoning Workshop 📅 2024

Partnered with OTA learners and rehabilitation colleagues on case discussions that connected functional assessment, activity analysis, intervention planning, and safe treatment progression. Shared practical examples and invited questions that made clinical reasoning easier to apply.

Rehabilitation Skills Evaluation Toolkit 📅 2022

Worked with clinical educators to organize competency checks, documentation reviews, practical demonstrations, and feedback prompts. Shared evaluation resources across supervised learning sessions, supporting fair and consistent review of student performance.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Recognized by rehabilitation colleagues for clear fieldwork instruction and constructive learner feedback.
- Selected to lead clinical in service sessions on adaptive equipment, functional assessment, and safe activity modification.
- Trusted by interdisciplinary partners to explain occupational therapy goals during collaborative patient care discussions.

EDUCATION

Master of Occupational Therapy

Governors State University 🎓 GPA: 4.0 📅 2017 📍 University Park, IL

Coursework: Occupational therapy practice, functional assessment, therapeutic activity analysis, clinical intervention planning

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Northern Illinois University 🎓 GPA: 4.0 📅 2015 📍 DeKalb, IL

Coursework: Human anatomy, health promotion, rehabilitation science, interdisciplinary health care

CERTIFICATIONS

- Illinois Occupational Therapist License 📅 2017
- NBCOT Occupational Therapist Certification 📅 2017

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Instructional Design:** Syllabi, lesson plans, learning objectives
- **Teaching Methods:** Lectures, guided discussions, presentations
- **Student Evaluation:** Rubrics, competency checks, performance reviews
- **Occupational Therapy:** Activity analysis, functional assessment, intervention planning
- **Fieldwork Education:** OTA supervision, case review, clinical feedback
- **Rehabilitation Practice:** Adult rehabilitation, self care, mobility training
- **Clinical Documentation:** Documentation review, treatment records, clinical rationale
- **Instructional Materials:** Handouts, discussion prompts, demonstration materials
- **Therapy Equipment:** Adaptive equipment, therapeutic materials, equipment maintenance
- **Communication Skills:** Oral English, interdisciplinary communication, patient education
- **Assessment Methods:** Direct observation, case presentations, practical skills checks
- **Professional Credentials:** Illinois OT License, NBCOT OTR Certification, official transcripts

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Active Illinois Occupational Therapist License holder committed to ethical occupational therapy practice.
- Active NBCOT Occupational Therapist credential holder engaged in continuing professional development.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST