

Vanderbilt Orthopaedics Nashville

Information for Occupational Therapy/Hand Therapy Students

Hand therapy at Vanderbilt is a fast-paced outpatient setting treating upper extremity orthopedic injuries. We have hand therapy clinics at the main campus, Franklin, Belle Meade, and Hendersonville. We have a total of (9) Occupational Therapists who are all experienced Certified Hand Therapists. We treat a variety of traumatic injuries and repetitive motion injuries. We fabricate a great deal of orthoses and complete modalities, wound care, therapeutic exercises, and training in functional activities. This setting requires independent reading and studying by the student. Successful students must have a strong working knowledge of upper extremity anatomy before starting this rotation. It is recommended that you review anatomy of the upper extremity before coming to this clinical rotation. You should know the origins, insertions, nerve innervations, and actions of each muscle of the upper extremity. You should bring your anatomy books with you for continued review during the rotation.

The following readings are required before your rotation begins: Rehabilitation of the Hand and Upper Extremity, 7th edition, Terri Skirven, OTR/L, CHT, 2020 by Mosby, Inc., Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8. If you need a copy of these chapters, we will be happy to email them to you.

This fieldwork is an excellent learning opportunity for the self-directed student who enjoys a challenge. The ideal student has a passion for hand and upper extremity therapy and understands that this fieldwork requires much independent study. Requirements for this fieldwork are as follows:

- It must be the student's last rotation of Occupational Therapy program.
- The student must have strong clinical and professional skills.
- The student must demonstrate a strong interest in hand therapy.
- The student must spend at least 8 hours in a hand clinic shadowing a hand therapist prior to placement.

Vanderbilt Medical Center has paperwork requirements that must be met before coming. You can find all required documents on the student website: <https://www.vumc.org/rehab-services/ot-student>. It is important that you read the website as soon as you receive placement, so you are familiar with what is required. All paperwork must be submitted at least **8 weeks** prior to the rotation start date to Tonya Patten at tonya.patten@vumc.org. **If all documentation is not submitted 8 weeks prior to your clinical start date, it could delay your clinical rotation.**

It is often not known in which location you will be placed until closer to the start date of your fieldwork rotation. As this may affect housing decisions, it is encouraged that you email the Occupational Therapy/Hand Therapy Student Coordinator prior to securing housing.

Please contact the OT/Hand Therapy Student Coordinator, Ashley Orth (ashley.i.orth@vumc.org) with any further questions or concerns. Thank you for your interest in hand therapy at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.