RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LEARNER

Courses in the OTA program are designed for active participation by students and the instructor who both share the responsibility for the learning process. Various modes of teaching and learning activities will be used during OTA courses, including: IPV lecture/discussion, small group work sessions, labs, and fieldwork experiences.

Each person is responsible for her or his own learning. Course competencies stated in the course outcome summary set minimum standards of what learners should be able to do upon completion of each course. Learners are responsible for thinking and working with others to meet course competencies.

The instructor is a facilitator for the course and will guide learners through the course or subject content. 

**Instructor responsibilities are:**

- To present, introduce, and guide discussion on topics, ideas or concepts and challenge learners to think.
- To provide own ideas and opinions during discussions and listen and learn from learners.
- To work diligently to have all learners actively participate, learn about the topics, share and exchange ideas and information, reach course competencies, and develop their thinking ability.
- To hold learners responsible for their own learning.

The learner is an active participant in the teaching and learning activities. **Learner responsibilities are:**

- To actively listen to others, think, make comments, discuss ideas, ask questions, read, write, think, talk, observe and listen for understanding.
- To respect others' ideas, work to understand others' points of view, encourage others, learn from others, use and build on ideas and opinions.
- To contribute to learning of the group by using past experience and knowledge, sharing information and relevant life experiences.
- To do the best work possible in all course work by active participation, writing tasks, pre-work (homework), individual study, contribution to class learning and group work effectiveness.
- To avoid relying on the instructor for learning. . . . learning is an individual responsibility.
- To complete prework. This is work done to prepare one’s self for each class or session. It may be reading, studying, thinking and/or writing. The quality of this "pre-work" usually determines how well a person can contribute to the class and group work discussions and activities. Most pre-work assignments will be made at the conclusion of each session and will usually include written and reading assignments. Pre-work is preparing for what each person needs to do to be ready for each session, discussion and class activities. It is expected that all learners will do what is needed to be ready for each session.
To critically consider subject or course content. This means that learners do not "blindly" accept what is written in the text or what the instructor and others say . . . as "the only way." Learning is difficult to comprehend but it does include listening to and thinking about a statement or idea, then developing one's own conclusions about the idea or statement. Learning requires one to ask questions such as:

- "What is being said/being written?"
- "What do I think about it?"
- "Can I modify or change it in any way?"
- "What are my conclusions about it?"
- "What is meant by that?"
- "What does it mean to me?"
- "How can I use it?"

OTA courses are not designed to present "answers." It is intended to have each learner work through and develop their own "answers." This is a crucial element in learning. The instructor works to facilitate this learning process.

Learner activities during various teaching/learning activities are:

- **Class Discussion:** The instructor will facilitate a discussion of a specific topic related to OTA. This activity is an exchange of ideas, thoughts, and comments between everyone - it is not a "lecture" with the instructor doing all the talking. It is "sharing" in the discussion by all. 
  
  **The instructor:** Presents and discusses ideas, topics, and concepts - makes comments and expresses own ideas/opinions - asks questions to generate learner thinking about the issue. 
  
  **The learners:** Think about their ideas, discuss the ideas, topics, and concepts presented - make comments and express opinions - ask questions for understanding and clarification - discuss their own experiences related to the topic. (The pre-work assignment will generally prepare each participant for contributing to this discussion.)

- **Group Work Activity (4-7 members):** A sharing of ideas to create a collaborative point of view - the tasks will be to develop a group response or solution to an assigned task, project or question. 

  **Each member** will be active in the discussion - and will present ideas, comments or opinions - this is usually developed individually during pre-work - all members will work to think about and understand the meaning of each person's ideas or opinions during this discussion. The team is effective when the response created by the team includes all good ideas of members, but is better than any one member could have done alone--this is a "synergistic" effort.

- **Simulation and fieldwork experiences.**

  Successful participation in these activities depends upon the learner's completion of assigned prework to include viewing of AV materials, critical study of occupation, and preparation of client related materials (treatment plans, assignments). The learner must demonstrate critical thinking in problem-solving and the use of the occupational therapy process.