

June 22, 2005



Donna Drynan  
Fieldwork Coordinator  
UBC School of Rehabilitation Sciences  
Occupational Therapy Division  
T325, 2211 Wesbrook Mall  
Vancouver, BC V6T 2B5

Dear Ms. Drynan

Re: Title Recommended for Occupational Therapy Students on Fieldwork Placement

Further to your request for clarification on the designation or title an occupational therapy student on a fieldwork placement should use, I have summarized the college's position for students below.

The mandate of the College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia (COTBC), established under the *Health Professions Act* is to serve and protect the public. It does this by setting standards for entry to practice the profession in BC, establishing programs and guidelines to ensure that occupational therapists practice safely, ethically and competently, and investigating complaints raised about registrants' practice or conduct.

The title "occupational therapist" or "O.T." is protected by law (*Health Professions Act* and the *Occupational Therapist's Regulation*) and only a person registered with the COTBC is authorized to use the title or hold oneself out to provide occupational therapy services. This is referred to as title protection and is an important regulatory mechanism used to help the public readily identify those individuals who are registered with the College and their accountability for the occupational therapy services provided. Title protection is in fact a privilege extended to those occupational therapists that have met entry level requirements to practice and maintain their accountability for meeting essential competencies and continued competence.

UBC occupational therapy students on a fieldwork placement have a responsibility to appropriately represent themselves to their clients and team members. The use of a title or designation helps a person to identify the roles and characteristics associated with that title. For occupational therapy students this means representing themselves, their knowledge, skills and abilities in a clear and open manner. Clients should understand that you are a student and under the supervision of a registered occupational therapist.

Title or designation: The College recommends that an occupational therapy student use the designation “*Student Occupational Therapist or Student O.T.*” or “*Occupational Therapy Student or O.T. Student*”. Designation on your name badge and on client records should make it clear to the public and team members of your role in that fieldwork placement. Use of other credentials in a fieldwork placement is not necessary and does not serve the public protection purpose.

The purpose of a title or designation is to inform the public of your role, level of knowledge and accountabilities to a registered occupational therapist.

For more information about the College, please visit our website at [www.cotbc.org](http://www.cotbc.org)

Yours truly



Kathy Corbett  
Registrar