

PRACTICE HOURS

Individuals who have been educated as occupational therapists are considered to be:

Practicing if they are involved in activities such as:

- A. Performing client assessment, planning, treatment and follow-up, including instruction and supervision of clients, family, support personnel, and caregivers and/or
- B. Administration, research, education, consultation in a position where the skills and education of an occupational therapist are utilized, and constitute the basis for practice.

Non-practicing if they are involved in activities in Saskatchewan* for which the qualification of an occupational therapist or a health care professional are not required.

Individuals who wish to apply for non-practicing status should indicate clearly why their activities would fall into the non-practicing category. Individuals should be aware that under this category they will not be accumulating practice hours and they may not hold themselves out to be an occupational therapist.

Notes regarding practice hours:

1. Only actual worked hours are counted toward the practice hours required to maintain a Practicing License. *To maintain eligibility as a practicing member, an occupational therapist must: work in activities requiring the skills of an occupational therapist as approved by council, for at least 1,000 hours in the five-year period or 600 hours in the three year period immediately preceding the date of application for the year in which licensure is sought (Bylaw X111 Sec 3 1(a)).* Any type of leave (vacation, leave of absence, maternity leave, illness or disability) cannot be included as practice hours.
2. Practice hours may be a combination of paid, volunteer and education as long as they meet the definition of “practicing”. Volunteer and/or education hours may comprise up to 50% of practice hours in a five year period. If therapists have any questions as to whether the hours they intend to claim as practice hours fall within the definition of practicing, they should consult with the SSOT Registrar for guidance.
3. Positions with a different job title, other than OT, but requiring that the incumbent be a health care professional would mean that the person was “practicing” and would therefore count the hours as practice hours.
4. Verification of hours may be requested by the Registrar/Council at any time.
5. The Credentials Committee may at any time review an individual’s reported practice hours and decide whether the hours constitute Occupational Therapy practice.
6. If the applicant is not satisfied with the findings of the Credentials Committee, they may appeal to Council.

*Therapists practicing only outside of Saskatchewan are entitled to maintain a non-practicing membership in SSOT.

Please Note: SSOT has approved the transition of our current practice hours policy to be consistent with the other Canadian provincial regulatory organizations as per the 2016 ACOTRO LMSA document, that is, *600 hours in the three year period immediately preceding the date of application for the year in which licensure is sought.* SSOT will be developing the processes for this transition in the upcoming year and further details will be provided as they become available. This does not affect the practice hour requirements for the 2019/20 membership year.