

Title: Job Responsibilities and Satisfaction of American Occupational Therapists

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No research has evaluated the job responsibilities of occupational therapists (OT) in the United States (US). This study sought to evaluate job responsibilities and satisfaction and to identify desirable and undesirable aspects of the profession. The validated survey was administered to 493 OT randomly sampled OT. Subjects (Age = 43.87 ± 13.57 years) included 96 women and 5 men, who provided written informed consent. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board. The survey resulted in 404 pages of data. Pearson's correlation coefficients were used to determine the relationship between subject variables and job satisfaction. Answers to open-ended questions were content-analyzed. Job satisfaction was positively correlated with career satisfaction ($r = .50$, $p \leq .001$) and negatively correlated with seeking other jobs ($r = -.45$, $p \leq 0.001$). Career satisfaction was negatively correlated with seeking other jobs ($r = -.63$, $p \leq 0.001$) and positively correlated with salary ($r = .27$, $p = .016$). Current job satisfaction was positively correlated with salary ($r = .25$, $p = 0.030$). There were no correlations ($p > 0.05$) between job satisfaction and weekly hours worked, workday start time, or workday end time. Reasons for working as an OT included: 1) desire to help, 2) population/environment/demographic variety, 3) oportunities for creativity, 4) increasing independence, and 5) holistic/functional approach. These data show OT have many job responsibilities, with documentation, treatment, and evaluations being the most time-consuming. Helping others, variety in responsibilities, and the opportunity to be creative were the main reasons for choosing OT.

Biography
Alicia Thone is a research intern in the Exercise Science Research Laboratory at Lakeland UniversityShe has presented several research studies at a variety of peer-reviewed scientific conferences including the International Society of Biomechanics in Sports Annual Symposium, as well at regional meetings of the National Strength and Conditioning Association and the American Occupational Therapy Association.

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