

**World Federation of Occupational Therapy (WFOT)
Specialization and Advanced Occupational Therapy Competencies**

Based on the criteria, below, CAOT members can identify as experts in an area of practice. Members are to avoid making any false representation about their level of competence and expertise within the area of practice that they are self-identifying as an expert. CAOT does not independently verify whether the occupational therapist meets these criteria. Therefore, it remains the sole responsibility of users to ensure that the occupational therapist possesses the necessary expertise and knowledge to be considered an expert in their area(s) of practice.

The WFOT recommends five criteria¹ that should be met for an occupational therapist to be considered an expert in an area of practice:

1. Meet the accreditation standards required by their country and be a registered member of their national and/or local occupational therapy association.
2. Have at least three years of experience, with at least half of those years in the area of practice.
3. Have completed additional education and/or professional development certificates on top of their generalist training.
4. Have completed/participated in a structured clinical supervision program that includes defined education as a supervisor, supervised practice, and experience supervising others.
5. Demonstrate the application of their knowledge, skills and attitudes in the practice area. For example, through written material (e.g., scientific paper), presentation at conference or workplace innovations and initiatives.

The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists - 2024

¹ World Federation of Occupational Therapists. (2014). Specialisation and Advanced Occupational Therapy Competencies. <https://wfot.org/resources/specialisation-and-advanced-occupational-therapy-competencies>