

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION

THERAPY ASSISTANT SERIES

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of This Classification Specification

This classification specification is the basic authority under Wisconsin Administrative Code ER 2.04 for making classification decisions relative to present and future positions which perform technical therapy work in such areas of therapy as behavior, music, recreation, speech, or work; or respiratory, occupational, or physical therapy where no degree, certification, or license is required. This classification specification will not specifically identify every eventuality or combination of duties and responsibilities of positions which currently exist, or those which result from changing program emphasis in the future; rather, it is designed to serve as a framework for classification decision making in this occupational area.

B. Inclusions

1. Positions which, for a majority of the time, perform technical therapy work in such areas of therapy as behavior, music, recreation, speech, or work.
2. Positions which, for a majority of the time, perform technical respiratory, occupational, or physical therapy work where the position does not require a degree, certification, or license.

C. Exclusions

Excluded from this series are the following types of positions:

1. Positions which perform technical occupational therapy work a majority of the time, and are identified by and meet the qualifications requirement of the Occupational Therapy Assistant classification specification.
2. Positions which perform technical physical therapy work a majority of the time, and are identified by and meet the qualifications requirement of the Physical Therapy Assistant classification specification.
4. Positions which perform technical respiratory therapy work a majority of the time, and are identified by and meet the qualifications requirement of the Respiratory Therapist classification specification.
5. Positions which do not perform technical therapy work a majority of the time.
6. Positions which perform professional occupational, physical, or speech/audio therapy work a majority of the time, and are identified by the Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, and Speech/Audio Therapist classification specifications.

7. Management, professional, or supervisory positions, as defined in s. 111.81, Wis. Stats.
8. All other positions which are more appropriately identified by other classification specifications.

D. Entrance Into and Progression Through This Series

Employees typically enter positions within this classification series by competitive examination. Progression through the series typically occurs through reclassification, after the attainment of specified training, education, or experience.

II. DEFINITIONS

THERAPY ASSISTANT-ENTRY

This is entry level technical therapy work in such areas of therapy as behavior, music, recreation, speech, or work; or respiratory, occupational, or physical therapy where no degree, certification, or license is required. Positions allocated to this classification perform technical therapy work identical to that described at the objective level but under the close, progressing to limited, supervision of professional staff.

THERAPY ASSISTANT-OBJECTIVE

This is objective level technical therapy work. Positions allocated to this classification perform any combination of the following duties to assist professional staff in the implementation of therapy programs for physically, developmentally, mentally, and/or emotionally handicapped patients or residents of a state hospital or institution in such areas of therapy as behavior, music, recreation, speech, or work; or respiratory, occupational, or physical therapy where no degree, certification, or license is required: Assist professional staff in the evaluation of patients' or residents' therapy needs, and in the establishment of goals and treatment approaches; independently administer therapeutic treatments or activities developed by professional staff; evaluate the effectiveness of therapy and modify to meet established goals; implement therapy program in conjunction with other therapy programs; confer with members of therapy staff and other health care professionals to exchange, discuss, and evaluate information for planning, modifying, and coordinating therapy programs; prepare written progress reports on participants and programs; provide orientation to and train lower-level Therapy Assistants; perform clerical duties, such as ordering supplies and equipment; attend departmental staff meetings and inservice educational programs; and perform related work, as requested. Positions may lead Therapy Assistants, volunteers, students, and others in the provision of therapy. Work is performed under the general supervision of professional staff.

III. QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications required for these positions will be determined at the time of recruitment. Such determinations will be made based on an analysis of the goals and work activities performed, and by an identification of the education, training, work, or other life experience which would provide reasonable assurance that the knowledge and skills required upon appointment have been acquired.