Darrice Ralota, OTD, OTR/L

Los Angeles, CA
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Education

Doctor of Occupational Therapy **Aug. 2025**
University of Southern California
3.84 GPA

Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, Clinical Movement Science Concentration **May 2021**
California State University, Fullerton
3.88 GPA, Magna Cum Laude

License & Certifications

- Basic Life Support (CPR and AED) Provider — Issued Jun. 2026 (Valid Through Jun. 28)
  American Heart Association
- California Occupational Therapist License (#28471) — Issued Nov. 2025 (Valid Through Apr. 2027)
  California Board of Occupational Therapy
- Registered Occupational Therapist (#543178) — Issued Nov. 2025 (Valid Through Mar. 2029)
  National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy
- Certified Rater, *Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)* — Issued Nov. 2023

Professional Experience

University of Southern California **Aug. 2026 – Present**
Los Angeles, CA
Assistant Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy

- Provides skilled occupational therapy services to adults with neurological, orthopedic, and medically complex conditions in USC Arcadia Hospital's Inpatient Acute Rehabilitation Unit
- Evaluates occupational performance and functional abilities to identify barriers to independence and establish patient-centered treatment goals
- Provides ADL retraining, functional mobility and transfer training, cognitive interventions, and therapeutic activities based on patient needs and goals
- Collaborates with an interdisciplinary rehabilitation team and engage patients and families/care teams in discharge planning for transition to home and community environments
- Contributes to clinical education and student mentorship as part of USC Chan's clinical faculty model

Momentum Pediatric Therapy Network **Aug. 2021 – May 2024**
Torrance, CA
Early Intervention Assistant

- Supported toddlers (ages 1 to 3) with identified developmental delays to participate in diverse educational and therapeutic endeavors that foster overall growth and development in preparation for preschool or community programs
- Created safe and engaging learning environments and activities that foster skill attainment in areas of physical, social/emotional, communication, and cognition under the guidance of the multidisciplinary team
- Managed group and table-top activities that promoted the development of social and communication skills

Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Experience

Re+Active Physical Therapy and Wellness **Sept. 2024 – Aug. 2025**
El Segundo, CA | Outpatient Neurorehabilitation & Wellness
Level IIB Fieldwork & Doctoral Capstone Experience

- Managed a caseload of 6-8 patients per day, delivering occupational therapy services to clients with chronic and complex neurological conditions, emphasizing functional performance and occupational participation

- Implemented client-centered, evidence-based interventions targeting ADLs, IADLs, motor control, fatigue management, and functional task performance
- Supported clients in developing self-management strategies, energy conservation techniques, and activity pacing, transferable to inpatient and post-acute settings
- Collaborated with a multidisciplinary rehabilitation team (OT, PT, & SLP) to develop and progress individualized plans of care

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center **May 2024 – Aug. 2024**
Los Angeles, CA | Inpatient Acute (Neurology & Orthopedics)
Level IIA Fieldwork

- Managed a caseload of 5-8 patients per day, conducting occupational therapy evaluations addressing ADLs, functional mobility, cognition, upper extremity function, and safety
- Provided daily skilled OT interventions for individuals with stroke, spinal cord injury, post-neurosurgical conditions, and orthopedic diagnoses
- Educated patients and caregivers on adaptive techniques, DME use, energy conservation, and fall prevention strategies
- Completed timely documentation in Epic to support continuity of care
- Developed standardized patient education handouts for post-operative spine precautions, adaptive ADLs, and adaptive equipment use to promote safe discharge

Level I Fieldwork

- Mental Health America of Los Angeles | Housing Supportive Services Program Jan. 2024 – Apr. 2024
- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center | Inpatient Acute Sept. 2023 – Nov. 2023
- Sea Cliff Assisted Living & Healthcare Center (Ensign Services) May 2023 – Jul. 2023
- Sarah Bryan Therapy | Pediatric Home Health Jan. 2023 – Mar. 2023

Research & Scholarly Work

Doctoral Capstone Project | 2025
Reducing Stigma in Functional Neurological Disorder: A Multi-Tiered Education and Outreach Program for Healthcare and Community Stakeholders

- Synthesized current literature to identify gaps in provider knowledge and stigma-related barriers to person-centered care for individuals with FND and conducted a needs assessment using focus groups and document review
- Developed a multi-tiered educational initiative to increase awareness and reduce FND stigma across patients, care partners, and healthcare providers
- Created the "Emergency Medical Service FND Pocket Guide" to support clinical-decision making during emergency response for individuals with suspected or known FND
- Collaborated with Joffe Emergency Services LA to pilot educational resources and designed a detailed sustainability protocol for Re+Active Physical Therapy and Wellness

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Volunteer Experience

St. Jude Wellness Center – *Social Media Intern* **Jan. 2021 – May 2021**
Brea, CA

- Increased content interaction by 245% and account following by 7.4% with high-quality posts within 4 months
- Advocated for mental health and special populations by developing informative and supportive content
- Supported lead intern in special projects that streamlined virtual services for clients

Therapy West, Inc. & Play Studio – *Early Intervention Volunteer* **Jul. 2019 – Feb. 2020**
Gardena, CA

- Assisted toddlers (between ages 1 to 3) with feeding, self-help, and gross/fine motor skills with OTs, PTs, & SLPs
- Cleaned and sanitized dishes, oral motor tools, and equipment & carefully maintained treatment areas
- Collaborated closely with the TWISPP teacher & administration in improving the organization of patient records

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Leadership Experience

Love and Faith Catholic Ministry – *Young Adult Ministry Finance Coordinator* **Jan. 2024 – Sept. 2026**
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church | Gardena, CA

- Manage all incoming and outgoing financial transactions for the ministry, ensuring accuracy and timely processing

- Maintain detailed records of annual archdiocesan grants and organize allocation of funds to support key ministry initiatives
- Collaborate with ministry leadership to plan and prioritize funding for events, outreach, and engagement activities

Love and Faith Catholic Ministry – *Youth & Young Adult Ministry Co-Coordinator* **Sept. 2020 – Sept. 2022**

- Directed group discussions and team-bonding activities for bi-weekly meetings for over 30 youth and young adults
- Coordinated the four sub-teams within the Youth and Young Adult Ministry

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Skills & Proficiencies

- **Clinical**: neurological rehabilitation, activity analysis, ADL/IADL retraining, functional cognition, adaptive equipment, chronic condition management, group intervention
- **Teaching:** patient education, educational material development, health literacy communication
- **Research:** literature review, needs assessment, evidence-based practice
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** team-based care, care coordination, collaborative goal setting
- **Technology:** Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, Zoom, EMR documentation systems, Canva

References available upon request.