

2.6 Mentored Practicum Scholarship

Scholarship Description

The overarching goal of the *Lifestyle Redesign* Certification program is to increase the accessibility of lifestyle-based occupational therapy interventions for clients and patients. We are pleased to offer a scholarship opportunity to accelerate the implementation of *Lifestyle Redesign* in diverse practice settings. This scholarship opportunity will be offered annually. This scholarship is equivalent to one unit of tuition or approximately half the cost of the Mentored Practicum.

Award Information

The Mentored Practicum is offered each summer. The exact course timing and schedule will be determined with consideration for participants' availability for weekly, synchronous online class participation. Scholarship funds must be used in the cycle awarded and cannot be carried forward. Scholarships will be offered annually; prospective applicants who anticipate enrolling in the Mentored Practicum in future years should apply in the cycle immediately prior to the Mentored Practicum they intend to complete.

Scholarship awardees must complete all prerequisites to be eligible to enroll in the Mentored Practicum course. Scholarship awards may not be used to cover the cost of these prerequisites. Failure to complete these requirements will result in scholarship forfeiture.

The Mentored Practicum is a 14-week course that requires participants to attend a 2-hour online, synchronous class session each week while practicing *Lifestyle Redesign* outside of class time (2 hours per week) with clients whom they access through their practice setting or other means. Participants will receive feedback about their implementation of the *Lifestyle Redesign* intervention framework, as well as their therapeutic approach and documentation of clinical encounters. Weekly discussions with the instructor and peers will inform treatment planning and intervention delivery. The course requirements include two case studies with clinical observations, which serve to demonstrate competency in delivering *Lifestyle Redesign* interventions.

Eligibility

- Applicant is a licensed occupational therapy practitioner.
- Applicant has completed or will complete all Mentored Practicum prerequisites in the cycle they receive the award.
- Applicant will be paying for the Mentored Practicum on a per-unit basis. Students who are taking the Mentored Practicum as part of the eOTD program using flat-rate tuition are not eligible for this opportunity.
- Applicant is employed or self-employed in a setting with the following characteristics:
 - Provides occupational therapy services to individuals, groups, or populations;

- Has capacity to incorporate *Lifestyle Redesign* into current or future clinical services; and
- Accepts reimbursement from commercial insurance and/or government programs (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Affairs).
- Applicant's current employment incorporates at least 0.2 FTE (8 hours/week) of direct patient care.
- Applicant has demonstrated financial need.

Application Requirements

All documents described below must be uploaded to the scholarship application portal at <https://redcap.link/lr.mentored.practicum.scholarship>. Please contact lifestyle.redesign@chan.usc.edu with any questions regarding this scholarship opportunity.

1. Demonstration of capacity to incorporate *Lifestyle Redesign* into clinical practice:
 - a. **Letter of support** from employer and/or attestation from a self-employed practitioner. The applicant should download [this fillable Letter of Support template](#) and ask an employer to complete it. If the applicant is self-employed, they should complete the template as an attestation. The letter should affirm that the setting accepts reimbursement as outlined above. The letter should also indicate that the applicant currently provides at least 0.2 FTE (8 hours/week) of direct patient care, and indicate support for the applicant incorporating *Lifestyle Redesign* services into their current clinical practice and/or expanding the applicant's clinical practice into new populations or conditions.
 - b. **Statement of commitment** (400-word limit). The applicant should outline their past educational or clinical experiences engaging with *Lifestyle Redesign* and/or other lifestyle management approaches in their occupational therapy practice, as evidence of their ongoing commitment to this practice area. The applicant should also share their perspective on how gaining *Lifestyle Redesign* certification will enrich their practice with client populations they currently serve, and/or how they plan to expand their practice to serve new client populations or conditions.

2. Demonstration of financial need:
 - a. **Documentation from employer** indicating that either: (a) no funding or reimbursement for continuing education is available to the applicant; or (b) that available funds will be exhausted by the applicant's enrollment in the *Lifestyle Redesign* Core Course series. Documentation may include any of the following:
 - i. Published policies from the employer's Human Resources website, employee handbook, or other sources.
 - ii. Attestation (1-page limit) from the applicant's primary supervisor or Human Resources representative.
 - b. **Statement of financial need** (200-word limit). The statement should include information about circumstances contributing to financial hardship.

Application Scoring

A committee within the *Lifestyle Redesign* Knowledge Mobilization Initiative will review scholarship applications. Evaluation will be based on applicants' demonstrated financial need; their prior commitment to *Lifestyle Redesign* and other lifestyle management interventions; and their future capacity to provide *Lifestyle Redesign* services to individuals, groups, and populations. In addition, the committee will seek to balance awards across geographic regions, populations, and settings, with the goal of maximizing access to *Lifestyle Redesign* services.