

CURRICULUM VITAE

Cara E. Masselink, PhD, OTRL, ATP, HPCS

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Caledonia, MI 49316

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EDUCATION and CERTIFICATION

2019: Ph.D.	Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
2016: M.S.	Occupational Therapy, Summa Cum Laude honors Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
2013: ATP	Certified as Assistive Technology Professional Rehabilitation and Engineering Society of North America
2003: B.S.	Occupational Therapy, Magna Cum Laude honors Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Assistive Technology Professional certified through RESNA	ATP47078
Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist	375885
National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy registry	1069558
State of Michigan Occupational Therapy license	5201 006 630

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Western Michigan University

Associate Professor
Occupational Therapy

08/18 - Current
Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, MI

Partners in Medicine

Policy Consultant, contract

12/24 – 08/25

Cubby Beds

Policy Consultant, contract

12/23 – 08/25

Western Michigan University

Associate Professor, Fieldwork Coordinator
Occupational Therapy

01/22 – 12/24
Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, MI

Clinician Task Force

Executive Director, part-time

01/21 – 12/24
United States

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ProCare

Grant Writer, contract

10/17 - 6/18
Grand Rapids, MI

Davenport University

Adjunct Instructor, Occupational Therapy

09/17 - 05/18
Caledonia, MI

Western Michigan University

Part-time Instructor, Occupational Therapy

01/15 - 05/18
Kalamazoo, MI

Western Michigan University

Research Graduate Assistant to Dr. Michelle Suarez

09/14 - 07/15
Kalamazoo, MI

Western Michigan University

Research Doctoral Associate to Dr. Kathleen Baker

09/16 - 6/18

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital

Occupational Therapist, PRN

06/17 – 08/18
Grand Rapids, MI

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital

Team Leader OrthoSEAT, Augmentative Communication, Assistive Technology

Occupational Therapist, Assistive Technology

04/09 - 05/17
Grand Rapids, MI

Barrier Free Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapist

06/10 - 01/15
Michigan

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital

Occupational Therapist, Weekend Coverage and Lead Therapist

01/08 - 01/12
Grand Rapids, MI

Community Caregivers

Occupational Therapist, Home Health

05/08 - 06/09
Grand Rapids, MI

Borgess Medical Center

Occupational Therapist, Acute Care

10/06 - 05/08
Kalamazoo, MI

Vanderbilt Medical Center

Occupational Therapist

01/06 - 10/06
Nashville, TN

Life Care Center of Centerville

Occupational Therapist

12/03 - 06/04, 11/04 - 01/06
Centerville, TN

Children's Therapy Corner

Occupational Therapist

06/04 - 11/04
Traverse City, MI

PUBLICATIONS

Masselink, C.E. (submitted for review). The Medical Nature of Assistive Robotic Arms: An evidence-based review. *Assistive Technology*.

Masselink, C.E. (submitted for review). Sleep Safety and Sleep Quality for People with Congenital and Neurological Conditions: A narrative review. *Global Pediatrics*.

Masselink, C.E., LaBerge, N., Detterbeck, A., & Paleg, G. (2024). RESNA and CTF Position on the Application of Supported Standing Devices: Current State of the Literature. *Assistive Technology*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10400435.2024.2411560>

Masselink, C.E., LaBerge, N., Detterbeck, A., & Paleg, G. (2023). RESNA and CTF Position on the Application of Supported Standing Devices: Current State of the Literature [position paper]. Retrieved from <https://resna.users.membersuite.com/shop/store/0baafe32-00ce-cc48-7ce1-0b452077581c/detail>

Masselink, C.E., LaBerge, N., Detterbeck, A., & Piriano, J. (2022). Policy analysis on power seat elevation systems. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. doi: [10.1016/j.apmr.2022.04.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2022.04.003)

Masselink, C. E., Shuster, L., Hoover, D., & Morgan, K. (2021). Retrospective chart review examining differences and timelines in delivered wheelchair equipment in a Midwestern dedicated seating department. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. doi: [10.1016/j.apmr.2021.11.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2021.11.002)

Masselink, C.E., LaBerge, N., & Detterbeck, A. (2021). Policy analysis on power standing systems. *Preventative Medicine Reports*, 24. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2021.101601>

Masselink, C.E. (2020). Trends in Wheelchair Recommendations in a Dedicated Seating Department. *Assistive Technology*. doi:10.1080/10400435.2020.1772899

Masselink, C. E. (2018). Considering Technology in the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 6(3). doi: 10.15453/2168-6408.1497

TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS

Masselink, C. E. (2025). *Assistive Technology*. In H. McHugh Pendleton & W. Shultz-Krohn (Eds.), *Pedretti's Occupational Therapy: Practice skills for physical dysfunction* (8th ed.).

Suarez, M. & Masselink, C.E. (2024). *Neurodevelopmental Impact of Post-Traumatic Stress*. In Hyter (Ed), *Language Research in Post-Traumatic Stress*. Routledge.

Lindstrom, D. & Masselink, C. E. (2020). *Technology for remediation and compensation*. In D. Dirette & S. Gutman (Eds.), *Occupational Therapy for Physical Dysfunction* (8th ed). Wolters Kluwer.

PEER REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

NATIONAL

Masselink, C.E., Rietveld, D., Buchheit, G., Flejtuch, E., Houck, A., McCaughey, C., & Smith, A. (Accepted for April 23, 2026). *An Investigation into Power Wheelchair Denials by Medicare Advantage Plans*. AOTA Inspire 2026, Anaheim, CA.

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Cezat, K., & Masselink, C.E. (September 4, 2025). *Can we do better? Exploring bathroom technology gaps for individuals with SCI*. ASCIP Annual Meeting 2025, Philadelphia, PA.

Masselink, C.E. (April 14, 2023). *Policy Analysis on Power Standing Systems*. 37th International Seating Symposium, Pittsburgh, PA.

Masselink, C.E. (January 31, 2022). *Maximizing the impact of rehabilitative seating services: The importance of follow-up*. 37th International Seating Symposium, Virtual.

La Berge, N., Detterbeck, A., & Masselink, C. (July 7, 2021). *Why it is time for a policy change on standing power mobility*. RESNA 2021 Virtual Conference.

Masselink, C. E. (accepted, conference cancelled due to COVID). *Trends in Wheelchair Recommendations in a Dedicated Seating Department* [poster]. 2020 Annual Conference, American Occupational Therapy Association, Boston, MA.

Masselink, C. E. (April, 2017). *Assistive Technology Funding*. 2017 Annual Conference and Centennial Celebration, American Occupational Therapy Association, Philadelphia, PA.

STATE

Masselink, C.E. (2024, November 16). *OT and Assistive Technology*. Michigan Occupational Therapy Association Webinar Presentation.

Masselink, C.E. (2023, October 6). *Advocating for Impact: a clinician's involvement in policy change*. 2023 Michigan Occupational Therapy Association Annual Fall Conference, Mackinac Island, MI.

Masselink, C.E. (2022, October 6). *Maximizing the Impact of Assistive Technology*. 2022 Michigan Occupational Therapy Association Annual Fall Conference, Grand Rapids, MI.

Masselink, C. E., Cornish, C., Lindeman, K., Morrill, M., Fox, M. (October 1, 2021). *Plenary session: Clinician Understanding of Wheelchair Service Delivery*. 2021 Michigan Occupational Therapy Association Annual Fall Conference, Kalamazoo, MI.

Masselink, C. E., Schultheiss, H. J.; Autumn N. Idalski, A. N.; Kehren, T. N.; Field, A. (October 1, 2021). *The Impact of a Dynamic Stander on Health and Function of a Person with Chronic Spinal Cord Injury*. 2021 Michigan Occupational Therapy Association Annual Fall Conference, Kalamazoo, MI.

LOCAL

Masselink, C. E. (February 28, 2019). *Trends in wheelchair recommendations in a dedicated seating department*. Presentation presented at Grand Rounds at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Grand Rapids, MI.

Masselink, C. E. (2018, July 28). *Trends in Wheelchair Recommendations in a Dedicated Seating Department*. Interdisciplinary Health Science Research Day, Kalamazoo, MI.

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INVITED PRESENTATIONS and GUEST LECTURES NATIONAL

Masselink, C.E. (June 12, 2024). *A Voice for Clinicians: the Clinician Task Force perspective*. Heartland, Waterloo, IA.

Detterbeck, A., Masselink, C.E., Stephenson, J., Fedor, D., & Grau, W. (12, October 2023). Elevate YOUR Patients with Seat Elevation Webinar. Virtual.

Grau, W., Walker, A., Masselink, C.E., Stanley, R. (2023, July 25). Working Together for Maximum Impact: The Power of Collaborative Advocacy. RESNA 2023 Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.

ITEM Coalition Congressional Briefing on Power Seat Elevation and Power Standing Systems. (September 14, 2022) Washington, DC.

National Coalition on Disability Roundtable on Power Seat Elevation and Power Standing Systems. (August, 2022). Virtual.

Betz, K., Correia, F., LiBaassi, N., Masselink, C. E., Múnera, S., Smith, E., & Turnbull, L. (February 2, 2022). *Global Perspectives on Wheelchair Policy*. 37th International Seating Symposium, Virtual.

STATE/LOCAL

Masselink, C.E. (2024, April 23). *Complex Rehab Technology: What is it? A primer on MI Senate Bill 449 and 450*. MiOTA Webinar, synchronous and recorded.

Rang, M., Barret, C., & Masselink, C.E. (31, May 2023). Interdisciplinary Assistive Technology. AAC course, Auburn University, IN.

Qualitative Research (May 9, 2019). Class taught to WMU Occupational Therapy students in Research in OT II, Kalamazoo, MI.

Masselink, C. E. (2019, February 28). *Trends in Wheelchair Recommendations in a Dedicated Seating Department*. Grand Rounds, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Grand Rapids, MI.

Qualitative Research (May 22, 2018). Class taught to WMU Occupational Therapy students in Research in OT II, Kalamazoo, MI.

Documentation to improve equipment funding (August 23, 2017). MiOTA Webinar, Grand Rapids, MI.

Assistive Technology Update (October, 2016). Spinal Cord Injury Symposium, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Functional Applications of Technology for Improved Outcomes (February, 2016). Pediatric Symposium for Fieldwork Educators, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.

Assistive Technology Update (October, 2015). Direct Caregivers Conference, West Michigan Brain Injury Network, Grand Rapids, MI.

How to train your Dragon. (October, 2015). Assistechnow, Kent Intermediate School District, Grand Rapids, MI.

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Assistive Technology, (October, 2014 and February, 2015). Grad Seminar, Western Michigan University Occupational Therapy, Kalamazoo, MI.

Life-Changing, Innovative Assistive Technology for persons with Spinal Cord Injury, (November, 2012). 2012 Spinal Cord Injury Symposium, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Grand Rapids, MI.

Mainstream Technology and the Developmentally Disabled Population, (April, 2012). 28th Annual Developmental Disabilities Conference, East Lansing, MI

Let's Evaluate (March, 2012). It's Tablet Time Conference, Grand Rapids, MI.

Assistive Technology for Academic Success, (January, 2012). Kent Intermediate School District Assistive Technology Conference, Grand Rapids, MI.

Kent Intermediate School District "Tablet Time" Conference (March, 2012), Grand Rapids, MI.

GRANTS

OER Grant

Project: Assistive Technology textbook

Role: Writer

Not funded.

2024

Budget: \$3,500

Michigan Health Endowment Fund

Project: Home Automation grant

Role: Evaluator

With: Disability Advocates of Kent County

Not funded.

2024

Instructional Development Project (IDP) Grant

Western Michigan University Office of Faculty Development

Project: A Community of Practice Focuses on Ungrading as a Strategy

Role: Primary Applicant

Funded.

2021

Budget: \$3,000

Field Initiated Projects Program (development)

National Institute on Disability, Rehabilitation, and Research

Project: Improving Independent Living with the Integrated Home Assessment Occupational Therapy Evaluation Tool

Role: Principle Investigator

With: Disability Advocates of Kent County

Not funded.

2019

Budget: \$600,000

Clif Bar Foundation

Project: Horses for Wholeness

Role: Grant Writer

Not funded.

2018

Budget: \$12,758

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Entry-level Doctorate in Occupational Therapy program

Faculty mentor for OTD Research Groups

OT 6640 Theory Application through Professional Reasoning

OT 6430 Research Dissemination

OT 6303 Advanced Occupational Therapy in Older Adulthood

OT 6120 Therapeutic Use of Technology

OT 6102 Occupational Interventions & Outcomes in Adulthood (limited)

Modules: Wheelchair maintenance and skills, Therapeutic technology

OT 6201 Analysis & Evaluation in Adulthood (limited)

Module: Mat Evaluation

OT6003 Science of Occupational Therapy

Masters in Occupational Therapy program

OT 7350 Therapeutic Use of Technology

OT 6600 Research in OT I

OT 6400 Theory in Occupational Therapy

OT 5730 Therapeutic Use of Technology

OT 4820 Level I Fieldwork Practicum II Pediatric OT clinic

OT 4820 Level I Fieldwork Practicum II at the Center for Disability Services

OT 4750 Level I Fieldwork Practicum I at St. Ann's Nursing Home

OT 4750 Level I Fieldwork Practicum I Marion R. Joy Spear Pediatric OT clinic

OT 4735 Vision, Visual Perception, and Cognition

OT 3700 Occupational Therapy Process in Physical Dysfunction

Programming assistive technology at Unified Clinics, Marion R. Spear Occupational Therapy Clinic

Bachelor's of Science Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

OT 4120 Technology for Function for the OTA

DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY

OCTH 772 Equipment and Technological Interventions

OCTH 610 Occupation and the Profession

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

NATIONAL

Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)

Role: Board Member 09/25 – Current

CMS Policy Change (NCD Reconsideration Request) on Power Standing

Role: Clinical Team Lead, Writer, Evidence expert 2030 - Current

Scoping Review on Power Assist on Manual Wheelchairs

2022 – 05/25

Role: Leader, Writer

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Clinician Task Force 01/21 – 12/24
Role: Executive Director

CMS Policy Change (NCD Reconsideration Request) on Power Seat Elevation
Role: Clinical Team Lead, Writer, Evidence expert 2020 - 2023

Scoping Review on Supported Standing Position Paper 2019 - 2023
Role: Leader, Writer

American Occupational Therapy Association Summer, 2018
Role: 2019 AOTA Proposal Reviewer, Technology section

Clinician Task Force 03/18 - Current
Role: Member

STATE
Advancing Policy Change with the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition 09/25 – Current
Role: Academic Researcher

MiOTA Advocacy Group 2021 – Current
Role: Member

Disability Advocates of Kent County 2018 – 04/25
Role: Program Evaluator

UNIVERSITY
Academic Information Technology Council 2020 – Current
Role: Member, Secretary

COLLEGE
College of Health and Human Services Technology Council 2022 – 2023
Role: Member

Grant Reviewer, Interdisciplinary Health Science Ph.D. program Summer II, 2019
Role: Reviewer

Sammons Center for Innovation and Research in Assistive Technology 10/14 - 4/17
Role: Board Member

DEPARTMENT
Personnel Committee 2021 – Current
Role: Facilitator

GA selection committee 2024 – Current
Role: Co-leader

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Curriculum Committee	2018 – 2022
Role: Member	

Course Fee Committee	2020 – 2021
Role: Member	

Course Material Coordination Committee	2018 – 2019
Role: Member	

MEMBERSHIPS

American Hippotherapy Association	2023 – Current
Role: Member	

Friend of iNRRTS	2024 – Current
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Clinician Task Force	2018 – Current
Role: Executive Director 2020 – 2024, Member	

Rehabilitation Assistive Technology and Engineering Society of North America	10/18 - Current
Role: Member	

Michigan Occupational Therapy Association	09/17 - Current
Role: Member	

American Occupational Therapy Association	12/15 - Current
Role: Member	