

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Purpose

The purpose of the fieldwork experience is to provide occupational therapy students with the opportunity to integrate academic knowledge with application skills at progressively higher levels of performance and responsibility. The unique contributions of fieldwork experience include the opportunity to test first hand the theories and facts learned in academic study and to refine skills through client interaction under the supervision of qualified personnel. Fieldwork also provides the student with situations in which to practice interpersonal skills with patients/clients and staff and to develop characteristics essential to productive working relationships.

Supervised fieldwork experience in occupational therapy is an integral part of both the educational process and professional preparation. It is intended to complement academic preparation by offering additional opportunities for growth, for learning to apply knowledge, for developing and testing clinical skills and for validating and consolidating those functions that comprise professional competence. The goal of the educational process is to produce competent occupational therapy personnel. Upon completion of Level II Fieldwork education the student is expected to function at or above the minimum entry-level competence. Therefore, fieldwork experiences should be developed to offer opportunities for development of the necessary skills and abilities identified in the role delineation report.

Levels of fieldwork

Level I Level I fieldwork experience includes experiences designed to complement the related didactic course for the purpose of directed observations and participation in selected field settings. These experiences are not expected to emphasize independent performance. They offer exposure in psychosocial and physical dysfunction settings in order to provide a student with some background to begin a Level II experience. Level I fieldwork rotations required in OCAT 10092—Fieldwork 1A and OCAT 20092—Fieldwork 1B. Students **MUST** pass the Level I fieldwork experience in order to progress in the program. No part of the Level I fieldwork may be substituted for any part of Level II fieldwork.

Level II Level II fieldwork is intended to emphasize the application of an academically acquired body of knowledge by providing the student with an in-depth “hands on” experience in delivery of occupational therapy service to patients/clients.

There are two (2) Level II fieldwork experiences, each lasting eight (8) consecutive weeks/forty hours per week, complying with the work schedule of the assigned facility. These fieldwork rotations (OCAT 20192—Clinical Applications I and OCAT 20292—Clinical Applications II) are scheduled after the coursework has been successfully completed. The student may complete Level II fieldwork in a minimum of one setting if it is reflective of more than one practice area, or in a maximum of three different settings. Level II fieldwork may be completed on a part-time basis as long as it is at least 50% or 20 hours of the full-time equivalent. After each Level II rotation, a pass/fail grade will be given for the courses.

Note: Clinical education must be successfully completed within 18 months of the didactic coursework.

Students will be placed in two distinct placement areas, which consist of: Inpatient Acute, Inpatient Rehabilitation, Psychosocial, Pediatrics (Schools, Outpatient, or hospital), Outpatient, Skilled Nursing Facility, and Community-based Practice. Students are to comply with the work schedule of the assigned facility. These fieldwork rotations are scheduled after the coursework has been successfully completed.

The AFWC performs on-site mid-term visits for **ALL** affiliations. The fieldwork educator is to call the AFWC early on in the affiliation if they are having trouble with a student, so that a remediation plan can be established. A remediation plan provides a more structured form of learning objectives based on the students current performance and will list consequences for termination.