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**General Objectives of Fieldwork**

Each center offering fieldwork has its own unique characteristics. The philosophy of the facility, its organization and environment directly affect the occupational therapy program. Thus, each setting must establish its own educational objectives in collaboration with the Colorado Mesa University OT program curriculum, reflecting those learning experiences available. Concomitantly, objectives have been identified by clinical and academic educators in occupational therapy which are generally applicable. Student performance is evaluated according to the level at which a student demonstrates appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes during the fieldwork experience.

These general objectives reflect the AOTA Fieldwork Evaluation for the Occupational Therapist including judgment, attitude and performance in assessment, planning, treatment, problem solving and administration/professionalism.

1. Ability to interpret and report orally or in written form on results of assessments and evaluations, patient’s/client’s behavior and patient/client progress.
2. Ability to analyze and segregate the elements involved in processes and activities.
3. Proficiency in evaluation and treatment procedures.
4. Ability to apply theoretical knowledge appropriately: to plan, present, execute and adjust the patient’s/client’s occupational therapy program.
5. Ability to instruct, to present processes and activities in logical sequence at an appropriate level for the patient/client.
6. Ability to communicate accurately and appropriately, purposes of treatment, treatment rationale and treatment procedures.
7. Ability to maintain effective therapeutic and professional relationships.
8. Judgment: to analyze situations, grasp essentials, reach sound conclusions and plan necessary steps in accordance with priorities.
9. Maturity: to appraise situations realistically and objectively and to maintain a healthy attitude and balance in reacting to them.
10. Sense of responsibility: readiness and dependability in organizing and discharging all assigned duties in relation to patient welfare and department administration.
11. Resourcefulness: utilize personal assets, available resources and facilities alone or under supervision as indicated.
12. Professional behavior: evidence an appropriate attitude toward institutional, departmental and personal standards involving grooming, bearing and manner, professional ethics and etiquette.
13. Ethics: understands the core values and principles of the AOTA Code of Ethics and is able to apply them to the ethical decision-making process.

Adapted, with permission, from University of North Dakota, University of Mary & University of Utah Fieldwork Educator Manuals

**General Level I Fieldwork Objectives**

**Definition and Purpose from** [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)

The AOTA Standards describe the goal of Level I Fieldwork "to introduce students to the fieldwork experience and develop a basic comfort level with an understanding of the needs of clients." Level I Fieldwork is not intended to develop independent performance, but to "include experiences designed to enrich coursework through directed observation and participation in selected aspects of the occupational therapy process."

Services may be provided to a variety of populations through a variety of settings. Experiences may include those directly related to occupational therapy, as well as other situations to enhance an understanding of the developmental stages, tasks, and roles of individuals throughout the life span. Day care centers, schools, neighborhood centers, hospice, homeless shelters, community mental health centers, and therapeutic activity or work centers are among the many possible sites. Level I Fieldwork may also include services management and administrative experiences in occupational therapy settings, community agencies, or environmental analysis experiences. Populations may include disabled or well populations; age-specific or diagnosis-specific clients.

Qualified personnel for supervision of Level I Fieldwork may include, but are not limited to, academic or fieldwork educators, occupational therapy practitioners initially certified nationally, psychologists, physician assistants, teachers, social workers, nurses, physical therapists, social workers, etc. The supervisors must be knowledgeable about occupational therapy and cognizant of the goals and objectives of the Level I Fieldwork experience.

**Objectives for all Level I:**

By the end of the Level I experience the student will be able to:

* Develop an increased comfort level interacting with persons who have occupational performance issues related to disabilities, emotional problems, psychiatric disorders and having difficulty performing desired occupations.
* Describe the needs of clients served by the agency/facility.
* Demonstrate respect for the values and diversity of persons with differences in culture, ethnicity, health status, disabilities, and the caregivers, staff and volunteers who work with people.
* Demonstrate an attitude of inquiry to enhance creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
* Actively observe staff interactions, assessments and/or treatment sessions with agency/facility clients. When an occupational therapist is employed by the facility, observation of occupational therapy assessments and treatment sessions will be included.
* Participate in group or individual treatment sessions as appropriate depending on the skill level of the student and the severity of the client’s disability/illness.
* Observe OT/OTA role delineation when Occupational Therapy Assistants are employed by the agency/facility.
* Display effective communication skills (verbal and nonverbal) and professional behavior at the fieldwork site.
* Display appropriate safety in site with clients and equipment.
* Adhere to site safety policies and procedures.
* Displays knowledge of appropriate ethics for practice setting.

(From AOTA *Standards*, COE Guidelines for Occupational Therapy Fieldwork – Level I, The Essentials Guide to Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Education)

The above objectives are accepted by the fieldwork site when supervising students from the Colorado Mesa University Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program.

**General Level II Fieldwork Objectives**

**Requirements established in the AOTA Essentials for Level II Fieldwork include:**

* A minimum of 24 weeks of Level II Fieldwork experience, full-time sustained basis.
* Completion of all fieldwork experience no later than 24 months following completion of academic preparation.
* Direct supervision provided by a registered occupational therapist with at least one year of experience. (The year start date is the day of official registration in the United States.)

**Upon completion of Level II Fieldwork, the student will demonstrate the following:**

* Competency in utilizing assessment tools and evaluation procedures routinely used by OTs at the fieldwork site.
* Proficiency in implementing treatment and justifying treatment plans based on the models and theories of occupational therapy practiced at the fieldwork site.
* Proficiency in working with persons who have occupational performance issues related to social emotional factors and/or psychiatric disorders and having difficulty performing desired occupations.
* Proficiency in identifying occupational performance issues with a wide variety of disease processes impacting clients through the lifespan including but not limited to neurological conditions, physical impairments, psychiatric and emotional conditions.
* Effective oral and written communication of ideas and objectives relevant to the roles and duties of an occupational therapist. This includes the ability to interact with patients and staff in a professional manner.
* Acquisition of professional characteristics that demonstrate the following:
  + the ability to establish and sustain therapeutic relationships;
  + a sensitivity to and respect for confidentiality;
  + the ability to work collaboratively with others and to relinquish or assume responsibility when appropriate to the task at hand;
  + responsibility in maintaining, assessing, and improving self-competency;
  + the ability to use supervision as a tool for self-directed learning;
  + the development of a broad sense of professional responsibility to the community at large and concern for social and health care issues;
  + understanding of the roles of other health professionals;
  + development of a positive professional self-image.
* Apply evidence-based, scientific and theoretical principles to address client needs in practice settings.
* Intervention planning that is client-centered, purposeful and meaningful occupations.
* Demonstrate and apply appropriate safety in site with clients and equipment.
* Adhere to site safety policies and procedures.
* Demonstrates behaviors that are in alignment with professional standards and the AOTA Code of Ethics.

Adapted from AOTA’s Guide to Fieldwork Education, copyright 1984 & The Essential Guide to Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Education