



Colorado Mesa University Occupational Therapy Program Fieldwork Purpose & Objectives

Level I Fieldwork

Purpose

Level I fieldwork includes those experiences designed as an integral part of the OT course series offered throughout the occupational therapy program. Directed observation, participation, and clinical reasoning experiences will be provided by qualified competent personnel, who may or may not be occupational therapists. These experiences are designed to enhance initial learning of basic material and are not to be considered substitutes for or part of sustained fieldwork experience as defined by Level II Fieldwork.

Objectives

The fieldwork site agrees to adhere to these objectives when supervising students from the CMU Occupational Therapy program.

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

Professional Behaviors & Ethics

- Demonstrate professional behavior, including punctuality, appropriate dress, and respectful communication with clients, families, and team members.
- Adhere to ethical standards, confidentiality (HIPAA), and site-specific policies.
- Accept and respond constructively to feedback from supervisors and staff.

Understanding the role of OT

- Describe the role of occupational therapy within the fieldwork setting and how it supports client participation in meaningful occupations.
- Identify the scope of OT practice and differentiate it from other professional roles on the interprofessional team.
- Explain how occupational therapy services align with the setting's mission, population, and service delivery model.

Observation & Clinical Reasoning

- Observe OT evaluations and interventions and identify key components of the OT process (evaluation, intervention, outcomes).
- Discuss clinical reasoning used by occupational therapists to select occupations, activities, and interventions.

- Identify occupational performance issues and contextual factors affecting client participation.

Psychosocial

- The student will **observe, describe, and discuss** psychosocial factors (e.g., motivation, emotional regulation/coping skills, social support, roles/routines, environmental supports/barriers) that influence a client's engagement in meaningful occupations.

Participation & Skill Development

- Participate in OT service delivery with supervision (e.g., preparing materials, leading portions of activities, documenting observations).
- Demonstrate basic therapeutic communication skills when interacting with clients and groups.
- Apply foundational OT concepts—such as occupation, client-centered care, and activity analysis—to practice situations.

Documentation & Communication

- Observe and identify documentation formats used in the setting (e.g., SOAP notes, daily notes, goals).
- Communicate observations clearly and professionally through verbal or written summaries.

Interprofessional Collaboration

- Identify members of the interprofessional team, describe their roles in client care, and discuss how OT contributes to team-based care.

Professional Growth

- Articulate how fieldwork experiences contribute to professional identity development as an occupational therapy student.

Level II Fieldwork

Purpose

Level II fieldwork is a core component of CMU's occupational therapy curriculum design. According to the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) standards (2023), the "goal of Level II fieldwork is to develop competent, entry-level, generalist occupational therapists." Within Level II fieldwork, experiences must include delivering OT services, applying purposeful and meaningful occupations as well as evidence-based practice, and administration and management of OT services.

Level II fieldwork requirements include a minimum of 24 weeks of full-time fieldwork or part-time with equivalence of 24 weeks. If completing a part-time fieldwork placement, this must be agreed upon by the site and the program, and documented as such, prior to the start of fieldwork. These placements are typically broken into two 12-week placements in a minimum of one setting, if reflective of more than one practice area, or in a maximum of four different settings.

Objectives

Level II Fieldwork Objectives are based on the AOTA Fieldwork Performance Evaluation (FWPE) for the Occupational Therapy Student. *The fieldwork site agrees to adhere to these objectives when supervising students from the CMU Occupational Therapy program.*

Fundamentals of Practice

- Demonstrate professional behavior, including reliability, punctuality, and appropriate communication.
- Consistently adhere to ethical, legal, and professional standards and follow site-specific policies and procedures.
- Demonstrate consistent safety awareness for self and others during all clinical activities and adhere to safety regulations including documentation and communication of incidents.
- Present a professional appearance consistent with site expectations.

Basic Tenets of Occupational Therapy

- Articulate the role and value of occupational therapy as a profession to clients, caregivers, colleagues, service providers, administrators, and the public.
- Use client-centered and occupation-based approaches in all aspects of care.

Evaluation and Screening

- Gather relevant client information through chart review, observation, and interview to guide the evaluation process and determine a client's occupational profile.
- Select and administer appropriate assessments based on client needs and setting, modifying as needed.
- Analyze and interpret evaluation data to identify strengths, limitations, and occupational performance needs.

- Contribute to the development of appropriate goals in collaboration with the client and team.

Intervention

- Apply occupational therapy theory and frameworks to guide practice and articulate rationale for the intervention process.
- Plan and implement individualized, occupation-based interventions while incorporating evidence-based practice into clinical decision-making.
- Demonstrate effective therapeutic use of self to build rapport and support engagement.
- Select, modify and adapt interventions and plans of care based on client response and progress to match client abilities and therapeutic goals.
- Provide education to clients, families, and caregivers as appropriate.

Management of Occupational Therapy Services

- Manage time and workload efficiently to meet clinical demands.
- Demonstrate increasing independence in planning and carrying out responsibilities.
- Work effectively as part of the interdisciplinary team while maintaining responsibility for occupational therapy services and interventions.
- Utilize resources, documentation systems, and site-specific procedures appropriately.
- Demonstrate an understanding of costs and funding systems related to billing and funding sources related to OT services.

Communication and Professional Behaviors

- Communicate clearly and professionally with clients, families, and team members.
- Accurately document evaluations, interventions, and progress in a timely manner.
- Seek, accept, and incorporate feedback to improve performance and enhance learning.
- Use reflective practice to identify strengths, limitations, and areas for growth.
- Respect diversity and provide culturally responsive care.

Psychosocial Factors

- Independently identify and address psychosocial factors that influence a client's occupational performance by incorporating appropriate, client-centered strategies into evaluation and intervention.