

Fieldwork Education

Fieldwork education is a fundamental part of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Curriculum. Fieldwork education provides the OTA student with “hands on” experience in the delivery of occupational therapy services. It provides the OTA with a unique opportunity to test and integrate the concepts learned during academic preparation with the application of skills at a higher level of performance and responsibility. Clinical skills and reasoning are refined through client interaction. Fieldwork education is divided into two parts: Level I Fieldwork and Level II Fieldwork

- Level I Fieldwork (clinical education) is designed to promote the student's ability to communicate, relate to clients and to develop a basic understanding of the needs of clients. Students complete Level I Fieldwork concurrently with academic studies.
- Level II Fieldwork (practicum education) is designed to promote the student's bridging between academic studies and entry-level service delivery as an occupational therapy assistant. Students complete Level II Fieldwork after completion of all academic coursework. Level II Fieldwork must be a minimum of 16-weeks of full-time fieldwork (640+ hours). In addition, each Level II rotation includes 16 hours of educational activities with the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. These educational activities may consist of computer assignments (including tests), discussion groups, and/or other learning activities. Each student is expected to enter into Level II fieldwork (practicum) within six (6) months of completing academic studies. Level II fieldwork (practicum) is expected to be completed within sixteen (16) months.

It will be necessary for the student to commute to facilities for both Level I and Level II fieldwork. Students may be required to spend extended hours in clinical facilities or travelling to and from facilities, including early mornings, evenings, and weekends.

All possible considerations will be given to meet individual student needs. The OTA Fieldwork Coordinator, in consultation with each student, will make assignments to Level I and II fieldwork.