### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FIELDWORK PLACEMENTS AT A GLANCE

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| **Primary Learning Goals** | 1. Introduce students to the fieldwork experience  
2. Apply knowledge to practice  
3. Develop understanding of the needs of clients | Develop competent, entry-level, generalist occupational therapy skills for:  
- ethics/safety  
- collaborative practice  
- evaluation & screening  
- intervention  
- management/administration  
- communication  
- professional behaviors | Develop advanced skills (beyond a generalist level) in one or more of the following:  
- clinical practice  
- research  
- administration  
- leadership  
- program development  
- advocacy  
- education |
| **Teaching Methods** | Direct observation and/or participation in selected aspects of the occupational therapy process such as:  
- evaluation/assessments (chart review, interview)  
- planning  
- interventions  
- communication with clients/caregivers & team | Initially, direct supervision, then decrease to less direct supervision as appropriate for the setting, the severity of the client’s condition, and the ability of the student  
- Provide in-depth experience in delivering occupational therapy services to clients, focusing on the application of purposeful and meaningful occupation | Customized to type of setting and overall doctoral project. May include clinical practice, research, or leadership mentorship and collaborations. |
| **Supervision criteria** | Currently licensed occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants, psychologists, physician assistants, teachers, social workers, nurses, and physical therapists | Currently licensed occupational therapist who has a minimum of 1 year full-time (or its equivalent) practice experience subsequent to initial certification and who is adequately prepared to serve as a fieldwork educator | Mentor with expertise consistent with the student’s area of focus (does not have to be an occupational therapist), along with faculty advisor |
| **Schedule** | Part-time, various models (e.g. condensed 2 - 3 week placement, or 4 – 8 hours per week)  
Level I placements are flexible | 12-weeks full-time (Summer or Fall**) | 16 weeks full-time or part-time for 640 hours (Winter/Spring**) |
| **Evaluation** | IHP Level I Fieldwork Evaluation of Student Performance | AOTA Fieldwork Performance Evaluation (FWPE) for the Occupational Therapy Students | Individualized learning contract with specific objectives, plans for supervision/mentoring, and responsibilities of all parties |

** see recommended dates for IHP Level II fieldwork and Doctoral Experiential Placements