

OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

FW 1.7 Level I Fieldwork

FW 1.7.1 Qualifications for Level I Fieldwork

Overview

All fieldwork is not the same. There are two basic levels of fieldwork as described by the Accreditation Standards--Level I and Level II. "The goal of Level I fieldwork is to introduce students to the fieldwork experience, to apply knowledge to practice and to develop understanding of the needs of clients." (Standards for an Accredited Educational Program for the Occupational Therapy Assistant, 2011) These experiences are designed to enrich didactic coursework through directed observation and participation in selected aspects of the occupational therapy process.

Two courses, OTA 211 Practicum I, a multi-site experience throughout the course of the spring semester, and OTA 241 Practicum II, a two-week experience in the fall, are specifically designed to provide students with concentrated Level I fieldwork experience. *No other clinical time may be substituted for the clinical hours required in these two courses.* During Level I fieldwork, students may be supervised by individuals other than occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants. However, these supervisors will have an understanding of OT and the potential role of practitioners in the given environment.

Qualification for Level I Fieldwork

For OTA 211, all students will participate in clinical experiences with their instructors. Hours and times may vary during the week and possibly on weekends given availability of clinical fieldwork sites and supervisor schedule. At the end of the semester, any student receiving less than 75% in any OTA class will be required to repeat the class and OTA 211 regardless of the grade in OTA 211. Students will not be able to progress through OTA program until OTA 211 is completed with a 75% or more.

The faculty of the OTA Program wants all students to have successful fieldwork experiences. It is in the best interest of students, clients, and facilities that students who do not demonstrate understanding of information presented during regular coursework may be asked to delay participation in fieldwork. Upon submission of midterm grades, any student with a score of less than 75% in any OTA course, will be required to delay OTA 241 clinical experience until the end of the fall semester or beginning of the spring semester depending on site availability. If a student is asked to delay any remediation assigned must be successfully completed prior to participation in any fieldwork experience. The student will be given an incomplete for clinical experiences missed. Students have 6 weeks from the end of the semester to complete the clinical or will receive an F for OTA 241.