

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT
STUDENT POLICIES

FIELDWORK INFORMATION

WHAT IS FIELDWORK?

Fieldwork is a term used by the Occupational Therapy profession to describe course work that takes place within the professional work setting. Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities, school systems, day programs, and community agencies may be utilized to develop a student's professional skills. Fieldwork allows the student an opportunity to apply the course work to a practical setting. Within the curriculum at Northwood Tech, the student will take **Fieldwork I** Fall semester of the second year (the 3rd semester of the program) and **Fieldwork IIA and Fieldwork IIB** during the spring semester of the second year (the 4th semester of the program). Reliable transportation is needed for Fieldwork.

FIELDWORK I

Fieldwork I is offered in the third semester (fall) of the OTA program. Students meet on campus prior to the start of Level I Fieldwork for a mandatory orientation. Students meet on campus at the end of the 16-week course for a mandatory Reflection/Follow up Session.

A part of Fieldwork I consists of multiple fieldwork settings. The settings are classified as psychosocial, non-traditional, or emerging practice. In psychosocial settings the focus of fieldwork is the psychosocial performance of the client in various contexts. Psychosocial placements are in community-based settings or memory care facilities. The student supervisor is a Northwood Tech Instructor. Students complete 16 hours of supervised fieldwork with an emphasis on psychosocial issues and context.

A part of Fieldwork I consists of community-based fieldwork. These experiences are designed to help you appreciate the diverse aspect of occupational therapy. Typically, this fieldwork is at one of the Northwood Tech campuses.

According to the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the fieldwork experience is designed to "enrich didactic course work for the purpose of directed observation and participation in selected fieldwork settings." The goal of the experience is to develop observation and interviewing skills, and enhance the understanding of the developmental stages, tasks, and roles of individuals throughout the life span and in different practice settings.

The student may be required to travel within the Northwood Tech district or approximately **two hours from the Northwood Tech campus they attend** to complete ***Level I fieldwork*** rotations. Placement depends upon available sites and availability of clinical educators. Students will be given the contact names of their Fieldwork I Educators and Fieldwork Sites prior to the start of the fall semester of the second year.

If you fail any component of Fieldwork I, you will be dismissed from the OTA Program. The criteria for successful completion is located in the course syllabus.

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FIELDWORK IIA AND FIELDWORK IIB

Fieldwork IIA and Fieldwork IIB take place spring semester of the second year. Each course is 5 credits and includes 8 weeks of full-time experience. The student will work full time for 8 weeks in each setting while under the supervision of an OTR or a COTA. The student will gain skill and competency in the areas of evaluation, treatment, communication, and professional behavior. Expectations are for the student to have entry-level employment skills following completion of the two courses. Placement will be in two different treatment settings, representing a range of diagnoses, ages, and treatment models. The student will implement academic knowledge into the clinical setting. You will be evaluated by your **fieldwork educator** and need a passing grade on your AOTA evaluation form to pass Fieldwork IIA and Fieldwork IIB.

Placements may be anywhere, including outside of the Northwood Tech district and outside of Wisconsin. Reliable transportation is needed. Time commitment and travel make employment difficult during Fieldwork II.

Fieldwork IIA and Fieldwork IIB must be completed within 18 months following completion of academic preparation.

All immunizations, a background check, and current CPR are required prior to all fieldwork. It is your responsibility to provide documentation if requested by a clinical site. Some settings may have additional requirements like an interview or proof of health insurance.

If you decline your Fieldwork IIA or IIB placement(s), the first opportunity for repeating will be the spring semester of the next academic year.

If you fail either Fieldwork IIA or IIB, you will be dismissed from the OTA Program. The criteria for successful completion is located in the course syllabus.

OT Practice and Management, 514-185, must be taken concurrent with Fieldwork IIA and Fieldwork IIB.

If you decline FW IIA or FW IIB, you will be required to demonstrate competency prior to attending FW IIA or FW IIB. Competency is shown via additional assignments, cumulative exams, skill checkoffs and portfolios. You will set up an Individual Competency Contract with Becky Mika, OTA Program Director. You will need to follow your contract in order to attend FW IIA or FW IIB.

Fieldwork Handbook includes AOTA guidelines and information, fieldwork policies, assignments, and evaluation forms.