

**Pacific University
School of Occupational Therapy**

Fieldwork Program

An Overview

Fieldwork is an integral part of Pacific University's School of Occupational Therapy curriculum. Experiences are woven throughout the curriculum and provide opportunities for students to integrate and apply academic learning at progressively higher levels of performance and responsibility. There are 5 fieldwork rotations within the curriculum: 1) Level 1A (80hours), Level IB (80 hours), 3) Level IC (40 hours), 4) Level IIA, (400 hours), 5) Level IIB (400 hours), 6) Level IIC (400 hours). A total of 1560 contact hours of fieldwork experiences are required by completion of the curriculum and prior to graduation.

Level I

Level I begins the first year students enter the School in the winter semester. It includes three courses---OT 422 Level IA Fieldwork, OT 522 Level IB Fieldwork, OT 423 Level IC Fieldwork, which are designed to provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge and further develop skills and abilities learned in the curriculum out in the community. Level I courses provide students with experiences across the occupational function/dysfunction continuum.

OT422 Level IA Fieldwork is a three (3) week course. This is a fulltime (40 hours x 2 weeks) fieldwork experience in 2 different practice settings, followed by a third week seminar to foster a beginning understanding of the many ways in which occupational therapy services can be delivered. Students will observe occupational therapy practice in a pediatric setting to support and expand their knowledge acquired in first semester course work. The second practice setting will provide students a context for understanding their second semester course work, which focuses on adults' experience of dysfunction.

OT-423 Level I-C Fieldwork is a (40 hour) experience in select settings in which primarily psychosocial services are provided, to apply theories and techniques to practice in assessment and individual and group interventions and includes concurrent seminar sessions to reflect on experience.

OT 522 Level IB Fieldwork is a ten (10) week, part-time (8 hours/1 day/week) experience. Facilities are chosen based on the services provided to clients experiencing occupational dysfunction in the following categories: 1) physical conditions and 2) psychosocial conditions. Experiences from Level IB are integrated into the term content in order to use "real life" examples for application of key theoretical concepts while bridging classroom to practice experiences and promoting higher levels of critical reasoning.

Level II

Level II Fieldwork begins during the second semester of the second year. Level II fieldwork includes three courses: OT 621 Level IIA Fieldwork; OT 622 Level IIB Fieldwork; and OT 623 Level IIC Fieldwork. All Level II experiences provide the opportunity for students to learn, practice, and apply knowledge from the classroom and practice settings simultaneously with guidance from faculty and community fieldwork educators. The Level II courses are designed to use active reflection to foster integrated learning.

OT 621 Level IIA Fieldwork is a ten (10) week, full-time (40hrs./week) experience taken during the spring semester of the second year. This experience is in settings which provide occupational therapy services to people who are experiencing occupational dysfunction. Typical settings include medical and psychiatric hospitals, medical and psychiatric outpatient clinics. Experiences from Level IIA Fieldwork are integrated with semester content using "real life" examples for application of key theoretical concepts bridging the classroom concepts with practice and promoting higher levels of critical reasoning.

OT 622 Level IIB is a ten (10) week, full-time (40 hrs./week) experience taken during the summer semester of the second year. This experience is in settings which provide occupational therapy services to people who are experiencing occupational dysfunction. This experience provides the students with an in-depth experience in the delivery of occupational therapy services to clients, which results in greater depth and breadth in their critical reasoning.

OT 623 Level IIC is an ten (10) week, full-time (40 hrs./week) experience taken during the fall semester of the third year. This experience is in a setting which provides occupational therapy services to children who are experiencing occupational dysfunction. This experience is integrated with semester content and provides the students the opportunity to explore specific areas of practice at a deeper level and apply research and administrative skills. Additionally, continued reflection and integration of major theoretical concepts of occupational therapy at higher levels is facilitated.

OT 633 Enacting Innovative Practice experienced in the final semester of the program and is the collaboration between students, faculty and community practitioners to create and implement an innovative OT project in the community. The project may take the form of program development, evaluation, provision of administrative supports such as grant development and/or direct service provision.

The school's philosophy and curriculum design support all students to participate in these three levels of varied experiences, with an increasingly greater breadth and depth of skill and knowledge expected. The variety required includes experiences in areas across the lifespan, and across the health /ill-health continuum. While the sequence of these experiences is prescribed in this curriculum it may vary for individuals on a case-by-case basis. All students must have, prior to graduation, the designated number of contact hours, in level I and level II experiences, for each of the designated areas below.

Across the Age Span

This requirement assures that the student obtains experiences with individuals across the chronological and developmental continuum. The following designated numbers of contact hours are required:

- **≥ 400 hours with young children/adolescents (0-19 years)**
- **≥ 400 hours with adults (20-64 years) /elderly adults (65 years and above)**

Across the Occupational Function/Dysfunction Continuum

This requirement assures that the student obtains experiences with individuals across the health/ill-health continuum. It focuses on the health status of humans in relationship to their occupational functioning status.

Occupational balance or health constitutes "a balance of engagement in occupation which leads to well being" (Wilcock, 1998, p. 257). Occupational therapy services may be provided on this end of the continuum to maintain, enhance, or promote occupational balance or health. This includes services to assist with case management, basic resources and/or rights protection in order to arrange, support, and assure access and essentials which promote occupational balance. Potential settings where occupational therapy might provide services/consultation include but are not limited to senior centers, schools, day care programs, recreational programs, retirement communities, businesses, social service agencies, and independent resource centers.

Occupational dissonance or ill-health is when there is a disruption in engagement in occupation which negatively impacts well being. According to Wilcock (1998), occupational dissonance may be caused by at least three different types of occupational deficits: imbalance, deprivation and/or alienation. Ill-health or occupational dissonance is further categorized by acute and chronic incidence.

Potential settings where occupational therapy might provide acute care services/consultation include but are not limited to acute care medical and psychiatric hospitals, home health care and/or outpatient clinics.

Potential settings where occupational therapy might provide chronic care services/consultation includes but are not limited to community mental health centers, day treatment centers, sub acute facilities, skilled nursing care facilities, long term care facilities, residential care facilities, and/or outpatient care for injured workers.

Across Health Conditions

Various ill-health conditions can lead to occupational dissonance. Conditions are categorized under three prevalent areas: 1) physical, 2) psychosocial and 3) developmental conditions. The following designated numbers of contact hours are required in each of the 3 prevalent areas:

- **≥ 400 hours developmental conditions**
- **≥ 400 hours psychosocial conditions**
- **≥ 400 hours physical conditions**

Wilcock, A.A. (1998). An occupational perspective of health. Slack Incorporated. Thorofare, NJ.

