Pacific University
School of Occupational Therapy

Description and Policies for the Doctoral Specialty Experiential Internship

Description:
OTD 850 Doctoral Specialty Experiential Internship is conducted in the final semester of the program and is the opportunity for the student to engage in advanced area of practice combined with the implementation of the final capstone project. The student will work with a faculty advisor within the program to plan and develop an experience that fulfills the advanced standards and expectations of a doctoral level degree. The focus study will be chosen from the following areas:

1. Clinical practice skills
2. Research skills
3. Administration
4. Leadership
5. Program and policy development
6. Advocacy
7. Education
8. Theory development.

Policy: Competency prior to start
The school of OT’s philosophy and curriculum design support all students to participate in varied levels and focus of experiences, with an increasingly greater breadth and depth of skill and knowledge expected in order to develop entry level competency. The student must complete and pass a competency assessment to ensure entry level occupational therapy competency prior to beginning the Doctoral Specialty Experiential Internship (ACOTE C.2.0). In the event the student fails to meet adequate performance on this assessment two additional opportunities will be permitted by delaying the start date of the experiential Internship. Failure to pass the competency exam after three attempts will result in failure in the program. Successful completion will progress the student toward completion of a Doctoral Capstone Project in collaboration with the experiential setting. The location of the experience and specialty objectives for the capstone project will be developed as part of the Capstone Preparation courses as outlined in the Doctoral Capstone Manual.

Policy: Experiential setting & hours
The experiential internship is designed to be completed on a full-time basis in the final semester of the program meeting the requirement of 640 hours over 16 weeks. No more than twenty percent of this time may be completed outside of the experiential setting. Students may complete the experiential internship on a part-time basis, if necessary. Timeline must be consistent with specific objectives and culminating project. Completing the experiential internship on a part-time basis will result in a delay of graduation.

Prior fieldwork or work experience may not be substituted for any work completed during the experiential internship.