

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

## STUDENT FIELDWORK HANDBOOK 2020-21

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## A. Introduction to Fieldwork

A developmental approach of simple to complex is integral to the design of the Level I and Level II portions of the curriculum. The curricular threads that the students will develop are engagement in occupation, critical analysis and thinking, professional development, diversity and cultural competency, general practice competencies, change agent and research.

The students have a total of 30 weeks of fieldwork; three Fieldwork Level I experiences totaling 6 weeks and two Fieldwork Level II experiences totaling 24 weeks. These experiences are designed to finalize students' preparation for entry-level practice as an occupational therapist.

Level IA and IB Fieldworks are orchestrated so students complete two weeks in settings where occupational therapy services are typically provided. This serves as a fieldwork experience during which students assist with the evaluation, intervention and documentation under the supervision of a qualified individual.

Level IC Fieldwork is a 60-80 hour experience focused on the psychological and social components of human occupational performance. It takes place in non-traditional settings and is therefore supervised collaboratively by a supervisor on-site and an OT faculty mentor. Besides providing students with opportunities to reflect on OT practice in non-traditional settings, this Level IC experience also contributes to the community focus of the curriculum.

These Level I Fieldwork experiences are intended to reinforce previous course work and enrich the subsequent courses and Fieldwork Level II experiences.

The main goal for Fieldwork Level II is to facilitate students' development and transformation into competent, entry-level generalist occupational therapists (AOTA, 2011). For the program at Utica College, students are required to have one Fieldwork Level II in a setting that provides services with adults and a second setting that provides services with children. The majority of students are expected to complete these on a full-time basis although the option exists for students (who receive permission from the occupational therapy faculty) to complete them part-time for a longer period of time. Part-time basis must be at least 20 hrs. per week. These experiences and timelines meet the requirements stated in the ACOTE Standards.

One of the strengths of our program is the number and variety of field sites with which we have contracts. Another strength is our student-centered approach to fieldwork choice. The program is, however, constrained by the availability of fieldwork sites. Although we attempt, as much as possible, to place you in a fieldwork site of your choice, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. International fieldwork experiences are encouraged for Utica College students, but only one fieldwork experience can be in an international setting.

Students are required to **pass all fieldwork placements** as part of the academic requirements for the program. Students are allowed to make-up one failed fieldwork; **a second failure in fieldwork results in an automatic dismissal from the program.** See the Graduate Student Catalog for policies related to dismissal and appeal. Students must complete all academic fieldwork requirements within 24 months of completion of didactic coursework.

## **Criminal Misconduct**

**Any student with a history of convicted criminal misconduct may be denied fieldwork placement, licensure or registration to practice the profession of Occupational Therapy and employment. Students should meet with their academic fieldwork coordinator and students should contact the state or country's regulatory board in which they plan to practice in order to determine whether or not their criminal misconduct would restrict their ability to practice. The National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (<http://www.nbcot.org/character-review-process>) has an "Early Determination Review" (for a fee) that will determine potential eligibility to take the exam.**

This may include convicted of a felony, any professional license, registration, or certification denied, revoked, suspended, or subject to probationary conditions by a regulatory authority or certification board, found by any court, administrative, or disciplinary proceeding to have committed negligence, malpractice, recklessness, or willful or intentional misconduct which resulted in harm to another or suspended and/or expelled from a college or university for non-academic reasons.

## **B. Participants in the Fieldwork Process**

### **Academic Fieldwork Coordinator (AFWC)**

Responsibilities include:

1. Select and develop fieldwork sites.
2. Develop fieldwork objectives in collaboration with the fieldwork educators and academic faculty.
3. Maintain a file of information on each fieldwork site.
4. Assure that written contract and letters of agreement between Utica College and the Fieldwork Facility are signed and periodically reviewed.
5. Maintain a collaborative relationship with the fieldwork clinical coordinators and supervisors.
6. Prepare students for each level of community and fieldwork placement.
7. Determine in collaboration with program faculty each student's eligibility to participate in community and fieldwork experiences.
8. Assign all eligible students to Level I and Level II fieldwork.
9. Coordinate relationships between the fieldwork site, the faculty, and the student.
10. Make regular contact and/or visit with the fieldwork sites, monitor the student process and provide support the site.
11. Provide support to student while on fieldwork.
12. Provide the necessary support or referral to the student and/or supervisor when issues arise during fieldwork.
13. Withdraw/remove students from placement per negotiated contractual agreement and related programmatic policies and procedures.
14. Review each fieldwork evaluation and determine pass/fail status.

15. Record student grade (P/F) and maintain student fieldwork records.

## **STUDENT**

The OT student participating in the required fieldwork experience:

1. Successfully complete all required fieldwork classes and prerequisite course work for the fieldwork
2. Complete all required health work by the established **deadline**.
3. Submit preference sheets by the established deadline.
4. Complete Personal Data Sheet within the time frame required.
5. Successfully complete an annual certification process for BLS, HIPAA, FERPA and Infection control/Standard Precautions.
6. Provide proof of health insurance by established deadline.
7. Maintain professional liability insurance.
8. Arrange housing and transportation while on fieldwork experience.
9. Pay all costs incurred for travel, housing, background check and tuition related to the fieldwork experience (Withdrawal or dismissal from fieldwork will result in additional tuition costs continuation in the program is approved and fieldwork is subsequently repeated).
10. Fully engage in the fieldwork experience including on-going self-analysis of his/her development and competence in relation to the AOTA (2002) *Fieldwork Performance Evaluation for the Occupational Therapy Student*.
11. Follow policies and procedures of specific facility/agency.
12. Be safe and ethical *during all fieldwork-related activities* (AOTA 2011).
13. Complete all fieldwork-related assignments from clinical setting /supervisor and academic program.
14. Provide accurate documentation of all the occupational therapy services provided according to site specific- requirements.
15. Communicate *clearly, confidently, and accurately* (AOTA 2002) with supervisor(s), colleagues, and campus representatives.
16. Provide written feedback to the CFWC and AFWC about the facility-learning environment and related student experience.
17. Be responsible for costs of any required personal emergency medical care.
18. Read/sign acknowledgement of facility/agency contract for every assigned placement.

## **CLINICAL FIELDWORK COORDINATOR (CFWC) and Fieldwork Educator (FWE)**

The Clinical Fieldwork Coordinator is the manager of the fieldwork program at the facility/agency. The CFWC coordinates the processing of fieldwork related documents and procedures including contracts, fieldwork data form, site objectives, student manuals and orientation, and assignment of fieldwork supervisors. The CFWC provides agency oversight of all fieldwork-related activities *to ensure that supervision provides protection of consumers* and

facilitates development of the fieldwork student/clinician in collaboration with the fieldwork supervisor and the campus AFWC or representative.

The fieldwork supervisor is the facility/agency staff member assigned to supervise the OT student. AOTA requires that the individual has practiced the equivalent of fulltime in the profession a minimum of 1 year and meet their state regulations governing practice. The supervisor will have knowledge and experience across the scope of practice for the fieldwork setting. The supervisor must also be authorized to practice within the facility/agency.

Fieldwork supervisor:

1. Coordinates appropriate orientation to the facility/agency for the student.
2. Communicates expectations, objectives and assignments for successful fieldwork completion.
3. Supervises the provision of occupational therapy services, documentation, and oral presentation by the student.
4. Provide ongoing feedback to students regarding performance including weekly progress reviews and at a minimum a written midterm and a final student performance evaluation.
5. Communicates routinely with the academic program regarding student progress
6. Be a professional role model for the student.
7. Inform AFWC regarding any problem situations in a timely manner in order to facilitate student performance.

## **C. GENERAL FIELDWORK INFORMATION**

Students enrolled in the Occupational Therapy program at Utica College are required to fulfill three Level I fieldworks and two-Level II fieldworks. A third level II fieldwork is optional and can be taken for a (0-4) credit load.

A requirement of the Utica College Occupational Therapy Program is that all Fieldwork Level II requirements be satisfied within twenty-four months of the completion of academic courses. Requirements for graduation may be found in the [Utica College Graduate Catalog](#).

The students will attend all fieldwork classes scheduled throughout the OT program. These are part of each student's regular semester class schedule. These classes prepare and help qualify students for fieldwork, gather necessary information for fieldwork and reflect upon the fieldwork process.

**Fieldwork is completed in each of the following areas to include experiences that facilitate development of entry-level skills as an OT generalist and appreciation of psychological and social factors that influence occupation across the lifespan:**

**Adult\Older Adult:** setting may include acute hospital, acute rehabilitation, subacute rehabilitation/nursing home, outpatient clinic, home care, day habilitation, community residence or other appropriate settings.

**Child\Adolescent:** setting may include early intervention, preschool, K-12, hospital, residential, community or other appropriate settings.

The students have specific time frames when fieldworks are to be completed and specific times when preference sheets are due.

### **1. Fieldwork Level I A & B**

OCT 553: Level I A Fieldwork: adult: 2 weeks: last two weeks of the fall semester

OCT 633: Level I B Fieldwork: child: 2 weeks: last two weeks of fall semester

OCT 552: Level I C Fieldwork: weekly throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> spring semester

### **2. Fieldwork Level II**

OCT 654: Level II A Fieldwork: adult: 12 weeks: summer between year one and two

OCT 656: Level II B Fieldwork: child: 12 weeks: end of Jan – end of April year two

OCT 657: Level II C Fieldwork: adult or child: optional: 4-12 weeks: after completion of Fieldwork II A & B: preference sheets are due spring semester of year one: Specialty: elected course that may be taken for 0 - 4 credits. Continuous enrollment fees may apply.

**Each student is required to meet individually with the fieldwork coordinator to complete Fieldwork Plan and discuss any specific needs. This meeting must happen before the placement process begins for each student. This plan will be revisited every time a placement is made to ensure breadth of fieldwork experiences crossed populations and practice settings.**

## **D. Objectives**

Fieldwork objectives are included in each syllabus for the specific fieldwork.

## **SECTION II – SELECTION OF PLACEMENT**

### **A. Selection Process**

The fieldwork experiences must be distributed across the life span and in different practice settings. The student must make sure the following items are taken into account when providing preferences for fieldwork:

- a. Type of facility
- b. Location
- c. Financial circumstances
- d. Family responsibilities
- e. Significant other (remember this may change)
- f. Areas of interest
- g. Work load capability (pace)

Fieldwork assignments are based on preferred region, facility/agency contractual status, availability of space, and numerical order of the lottery in consideration of your site preferences.

Begin looking through the Google Drive site folder and doing a google search for sites in your geographic area of interest and practice settings.  
If any questions arise please feel free to discuss with the Fieldwork Coordinator.

All requests for placements are made by the fieldwork coordinator. **DO NOT contact centers directly. If a student contacts a site directly and student will automatically be moved to the back of the lottery.**

**THERE MAY BE UNEXPECTED INCURRED EXPENSES FOR FIELDWORK INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TIME, TRAVEL, AND OTHER SITE REQUIREMENTS.**

**All students should be prepared to travel up to 90 minutes each way for any level I or Level II fieldwork placement.**

## **B. Site Information Files**

Google Drive access to Fieldwork Data Forms and Student Feedback Forms  
All students will be given access to this Google Drive  
The OT Administrator Assistant will give each student an invitation to this Google Drive  
Review the information

## **C. Fieldwork Preference Sheet Process**

The preference sheet must be filled out for Level I and Level II placements.

1. The student must fill out the top portion of the preference sheet to determine the group the student is in and the level of fieldwork.
2. The student must complete the demographic information so that the AFWC can contact the student when he/she is not on campus for questions concerning fieldwork placements.
3. All correspondence will go through the Utica College email account.
4. The student is to complete one fieldwork Level I and II from each of the categories (child and adult).
5. The student is to submit the preference sheet on or before the established deadline.
6. A lottery will generate and numbers assigned.
7. Preference sheets are put in numerical order according to the lottery numbers.
8. The placement process will begin.

## **D. PLACEMENT PROCESS**

The AFWC will begin contacting sites to facilitate placements.  
Variables affecting the placement process:

- contracts
- communication process
- individual state policies



- site policies
- site schedule
- time frame
- other academic programs requesting placements

This process will take many months, students may be placed right away and others may receive placement until a few months prior to start date. These variables many times are not within the Academic fieldwork Coordinators control, it is dependent on the site availability and other processes.

## **SECTION III**

### **PLACEMENT CONFIRMATION**

#### **Confirmation of Fieldwork placement**

Confirmation of placement is done through the fieldwork office by the following process  
Fieldwork Level I and Level II:

1. AFWC will research contract status.
2. AFWC receives confirmation from the site for a placement.
3. AFWC informs the student of the placement by phone or e-mail or in person.
4. The AFWC will contact CFWC at specific site and give student name.
5. CFWC will communicate specific requirements of site – interview, qualities necessary, and medical
6. Student will communicate with facility to discuss requirements.
7. Student will communicate with the AFWC the outcome of the communication.
8. AFWC prepares a confirmation letter for placement.
9. Student will complete requirements of the site and communicate with the AFWC when complete.

## **SECTION IV**

### **Prerequisites for Fieldwork**

#### **Health Requirements - Policy**

In accordance with New York State Health Department and by the terms of the contractual agreements between the college and host facilities, students must adhere to the following policy regarding health requirements. Students must be prepared to complete any additional state or agency/facility health requirements required by their specific placement site. These requirements promote the protection of students, clinicians and individuals served at the host facilities.

#### **Policy:**

Each student is required, at their own expense, to have an ANNUAL physical examination and specified immunizations/titers. The Utica College Health Form must be used and completed in full. The students' programs will provide a list of those immunizations/titers that are required. The Student Health Center has information regarding the location of area clinics that provide these services.

Other requirements are specific to the students' programs but may include: current Basic Life Support certification, proof of personal health insurance, drug testing, and/or background check.

These requirements must be completed by the due dates established by the students' programs. Students should plan in advance to ensure that the required items are submitted on time and are current and valid for the duration of the clinical education experiences. It is strongly suggested that students keep valid and current copies of these health records at all times.

Failure to observe the stated deadlines and requirements will prevent the student from participation in clinical education, which in turn will delay or prevent progress in the student's program. EXCEPTIONS WILL NOT BE MADE.

Utica College has contracted with American DataBank to provide compliance tracking with these requirements. Physical exams and additional health requirements are submitted directly by the student to American DataBank using directions provided by the students' programs.

#### **A. Health Information**

Health insurance-All students must be covered by health insurance while on any lab work and fieldwork. Students must provide proof of insurance coverage. A copy will be housed in American Data Bank

Health work:

- Annual physical
- Mantoux/PPD/QuantiFeron Gold Plus(blood test) within 1 year, some times more frequently (site specific)  
chest x-ray within 5 years if positive must have results of positive test,
- MMR documentation
- Hepatitis B documentation or signed a declination
- Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) within 10 years
- Flu shot (Annual)

Students must have their health work complete at the beginning of each semester for lab participation and prior to each fieldwork placement as dictated by the AFWC and the fieldwork site.

## **B. Personal Data Sheet**

Personal Data Sheets (PDS) are to be completed by the student and received by the fieldwork office by the established deadlines. PDS can be filled out electronically. PDS will be included with the confirmation letters and student packets for all placements. Be honest when presenting personal data.

## **C. Basic Life Support (BLS): CPR and AED Training**

BLS certification is a requirement for lab classes, Level I and Level II fieldwork. **Annual American Heart Association** BLS is required for the OT program. Note that the timing of the certification must cover the entire time of each placement. If it expires during your placement you should renew early to prevent a lapse.

Students must provide a copy of the BLS card to American DataBank.

A copy of the card will be included with the student fieldwork packet.

## **D. Malpractice Insurance**

Each student in the Occupational Therapy program at Utica College is required to have malpractice insurance.

Utica College has bought into a blanket malpractice/professional liability insurance plan covering \$2,000,000 incident/4,000,000 aggregate for the student to purchase. The charge is presently \$18.00 per year. It will be charged to the tuition bill and is connected to each of the following courses: OCT 553 and OCT 633.

## **E. Infection control and standard precautions**

Students will receive training for infection control and standard precautions in fieldwork preparation class. Students must demonstrate knowledge of these areas before beginning fieldwork. Documentation of training will be included and sent in the student packet to the community and fieldwork sites.

## **F. Communication Sheet**

Each student will be responsible for gathering the information for completion of the Fieldwork Communication Sheet at least six weeks prior to the beginning of Fieldwork Level I and Level II placements. The student can begin this process of obtaining information for the Communication Sheet after receiving email confirmation of Fieldwork placement from the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator.

## **G. Finger Printing/Background Check/Criminal Background Check**

If it is a requirement of the facility, the student is responsible to contact the CFWC at the facility for requirements and details. A criminal background check results may influence your placement at specific sites. The process can be done through American DataBank

## **H. HIPAA/FERPA Training**

Annual training will be completed and documentation of training will be provided to student fieldwork sites.

## **I. Contract**

Students must review and signed the Utica College Student Agreement Form that they have reviewed the specific contract for their placement site prior to going on placement.

## **SECTION V**

### **Packet Information for Fieldwork Sites**

#### **A.**

##### **Level IA:**

##### **Level IB:**

AFWC will send a student packet to the fieldwork site one month prior to the start date of the fieldwork. The packet includes:

Personal Data Sheet

Infection control and standard precautions verification

HIPAA/FERPA Training verification

Utica College Occupational Therapy Level I Fieldwork Evaluation

Assignment/Objectives

Level I Feedback Form

BLS verification, Health Insurance verification and Student Health work will be sent from American DataBank

#### **B. Level II:**

AFWC will send a student packet to the fieldwork site six weeks prior to the start date of the fieldwork. The packet includes:

Personal Data Sheet

Infection control and standard precautions verification

HIPAA Training verification

Fieldwork Performance Evaluation for the Occupational Therapy Student

Student Evaluation of Fieldwork Experience

Weekly Supervision Forms and directions

BLS verification, Health Insurance verification and Student Health work will be sent from American DataBank

## **SECTION VI**

### **COMMUNICATION DURING FIELDWORK**

#### **Fieldwork level I A**

Policy:

Maintain contact with students while on fieldwork Level I C and facilitate student success.

Procedure:

Communication with the sites will be done through the Faculty Member working with the community agency

**Fieldwork level I B**

Policy:

Maintain contact with students while on fieldwork Level I and facilitate student success.

Procedure:

Communication sheet is required prior to first day of placement. Other communication is initiated from the student and /or fieldwork supervisor on an as needed base. AFWC is available to both the student and supervisor via email or phone.

**Fieldwork Level II**

Policy:

Maintain contact with students while on fieldwork Level II and facilitate student success.

Procedure:

All students are expected to contact the college (fieldwork office) while on Level II if questions/concerns arise. In urgent situations the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and/or Program Chair/Director should be contacted as soon as possible. The dean's office has further contact information if these individuals are not immediately available through routine contact numbers or email.

All students are contacted at least twice throughout their Level II to check on the process, celebrate success, feel out concerns, and allow venting if necessary. E-mail communication is required with the AFWC by the student while on fieldwork.

All students are expected to facilitate effective communication with their supervisor when difficulties arise. The second layer of support is the Clinical Fieldwork Coordinator at the site in collaboration with the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Chair/Program Director, or designee from campus as needed. Fieldwork is both a learning situation and a measure of competency; placement in a site is provided as part of a professional relationship and sites are not required to maintain a student on-site who compromises the operations of the field site. Issues should be resolved early in the fieldwork placement in order to facilitate success.

**SECTION VII – POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR FIELDWORK**

**A. Confirmed Fieldwork Placement**

### Policy:

A student is **confirmed** at a fieldwork placement when the student and site receives the confirmation letter via email. **Students cannot change a confirmed placement.** Forfeiting a placement will have academic and financial consequences. These students will be subject to program review and may not be able to continue in the program as planned.

### Procedure:

A student is given an exception to this policy for the following **documented** reasons:

- Death or major illness in the **nuclear** family
- **Major** personal injury or illness

**\*Note that major illness/injury is considered that which requires immediate, high levels of care.**

### Reasons why an exception will NOT be granted:

1. Financial reasons (we will refer student to explore financial options with appropriate offices)
2. Housing changes (students need to consider this when signing leases).
3. Changes in family status or relationship (students are expected to have a back-up plan for support before they commit to this intensive program and fieldwork)
4. Employment/athletic reasons (employers/coaches/others should be notified of the fieldwork commitment in advance).
5. Want a different practice setting or geographic area (this is part of pre-planning)

### If a student needs to be considered for an exception and alternative fieldwork placement, the following procedure must be followed:

1. The student schedules a formal meeting with the fieldwork coordinator and is prepared to explain and document their situation.
2. After meeting with the coordinator the student may submit a letter of intent with verifiable documentation of the situation. The fieldwork coordinator will provide his/her recommendation to the OT Chair/Program Director who will confer with the student and appropriate others as necessary (faculty/dean/registrar/financial aid/etc.) in consideration of student confidentiality policies in order to make a just determination.
3. Once a determination has been made, the student will be notified in writing and any necessary campus or fieldwork facility/agency offices will be notified by standard communication protocol for the site (letter, email, telephone).
4. An administrative fee of \$200.00 is necessary from the student to begin the fieldwork placement process again. In the event that a new viable placement is not available and an interruption in course sequencing occurs, the student may need to forfeit class placement and join a subsequent cohort as space allows.
5. **Students denied exception must attend the fieldwork placement as scheduled or the forfeiture policy applies and the student will be subject to review for possible dismissal from the program.**

## **B. Student Fieldwork Review**

A faculty meeting is held prior to any fieldwork placement. At this meeting, students are approved for fieldwork based on a number of factors including completion of all pre-fieldwork requirements. These areas include academic preparation/performance and professional behaviors and completion of documentation.

### **C. Communication Sheet**

**Policy:**

The verification of the supervisor's qualifications to supervise and Occupational Therapy Student from Utica College will be gathered prior to the Fieldwork placement.

**Procedure:**

One of those requirements is a completed Communication Sheet that lists the qualifications of the fieldwork supervisor to ensure eligibility to serve as a fieldwork supervisor, as well as other information. The AFWC will document verification of the receipt of the Communication Sheet on the Student Fieldwork Review Form prior to the faculty meeting in which the approval review process is held.

Each student will be responsible for gathering the information for completion of the Fieldwork Communication Sheet at least six weeks prior to the beginning of Fieldwork Level I and Level II placements. The student can begin this process of obtaining information for the Communication Sheet after receiving email confirmation of Fieldwork placement from the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator.

After receiving the Communication Sheets from the students, the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator will ensure that the intended supervisor:

1. For level I fieldwork experiences – is an OT or OTA with at least 1 year of experiences and holds a current license to practice occupational therapy;
2. For a level II fieldwork experiences – is an OT with at least 1 year of experience and holds a current license to practice occupational therapy;
3. For international fieldwork experiences – is an OT with at least 1 year of experience, has graduated from a WFOT approved education program, and holds the credentials required to practice occupational therapy in that country.

For those sites in which the supervisor does not meet these criteria, the site coordinator will be contacted and the student either reassigned to a qualified supervisor or the placement cancelled.

### **D. Collaboration with Fieldwork Sites**

**Policy:** Academic and fieldwork educators will collaborate in establishing fieldwork objectives with the fieldwork site prior to the student experience, and communicate with the student and fieldwork educator about progress and performance during the student experience.

**Procedure:**

Collaboration between academic and fieldwork educators prior to the fieldwork experience:

- The AFWCs provide *FW Objectives*, established by program faculty and consistent with our curriculum, to each FW site. They ask FW supervisors to review those objectives

and collaboratively work with them to add to or revise objectives as necessary to accurately reflect the site's learning environment.

- Twelve-week schedules are also collaboratively determined to ensure that the experience is planned so as to meet those objectives.

### **Communication with the student and fieldwork educator during fieldwork:**

- While the two week length of FWI precludes extensive communication, both supervisors and students are made aware of the availability of the AFWCs via phone/email.
- During FWII placements, the AFWCs and/or an academic faculty member communicate at least twice with each FW supervisor and student. A visit is planned for each site on a three year rotating basis if geographically distant and annually if local. This site visit may be carried out by a faculty member other than the AFWCs. Such contacts between FW sites and faculty are seen as a way for academic educators to collaborate with fieldwork educators.
- If students are reported, by either themselves or the supervisors, as having difficulty, contact is more frequent. In such instances, a *Learning Contract* is often developed collaboratively between the student, the AFWCs, and the site supervisor. Program faculty and/or administrators are informed and often provide input into such contracts. All such learning contracts are maintained by the AFWCs in the students' folders.

All communication, whether by phone, email, or in person, are documented on a *Contact Form* that is maintained in both the student folder (purged one year after graduation) or for in the site folder (maintained for seven years).

### **E. Criteria and Procedure for Fieldwork Sites where no OT Services Exist**

Policy: The program does not initiate FWII experiences in sites without OT services. If a student requests placement at a site in which there are no occupational therapy services, the AFWC will assess the site and will place a student on a case-by-case basis.

Criteria for student approval:

Any student who seeks a non-traditional level II fieldwork must obtain full faculty approval.

Such approval will be based on the following criteria:

- a) Exceptional academic performance
- b) Self-directed and independent in learning style
- c) Demonstrated understanding of the role of OT in non-traditional settings.

Procedure for student approval:

1. Any student seeking a non-traditional placement will submit a letter of request to the AFWC.
2. The AFWC will review the letter with the student, identifying the possibility of a potential placement setting.
3. The AFWC will bring the letter to a faculty meeting, at which time the faculty will approve/disapprove the student for the non-traditional placement.



4. At the same time, a faculty member will be identified to serve as supervisor. This individual must be an occupational therapist (initially certified) and available to serve as a supervisor no less than 8 hours per week. The criteria for this individual are:
  - a. 3 years full-time clinical practice appropriate to the intended placement
  - b. current license in the state of NY to practice occupational therapy.
5. This decision will be communicated to the student by the AFWC. If the decision is positive, the AFWC will seek out an appropriate placement following the criteria and procedures listed below.

Criteria for site selection: All such non-traditional level II fieldwork sites must meet the following criteria:

1. The fieldwork site must provide services that fit the sequence of our curriculum.
  - a) Sites considered for FWIIA must provide services to adolescents and/or adults.
  - b) Sites considered for FWIIB must provide services to children.
2. The fieldwork site must provide services that fit the scope of our curriculum.
  - a) Services may be provided in many different settings such as medical-based (acute and sub-acute care, rehab), community-based (school, home-health), psycho-social (mental health) or residential (SNF).
  - b) Services at the site must provide students the opportunity to observe/engage in assessment and intervention strategies/techniques to address clients' occupational performance.
  - c) Such assessment and intervention services must be in keeping with the scope of academic course work completed prior to the placement and the respective state's practice act.
  - d) Services at the site must provide students, at the end of the placement, with a case-load and level of responsibility consistent with entry-level practice at that site.
3. The fieldwork site must provide an individual competent to serve in the role of student site supervisor.
  - a) Student site supervisors must be individuals with at least one year of practice and identified by their supervisor as competent in their practice areas.
  - b) Supervision at the site must be provided by an individual considered adequate in supervisory skills by the site supervisor.
  - c) Supervision at the site must be provided by an individual who can engage in effective communication with a variety of individuals as determined by their supervisor.
  - d) Supervision at the site must provide students the opportunity to engage in practice in a manner that ensures the safety of both the client and the student.
  - e) Supervision at the site must provide students with the opportunity to practice skills in keeping with their level of competence.
  - f) Supervision at the site must be provided in such a way as to foster students' development over the course of the fieldwork. This may be structured by using the 12 week progression of objectives as developed by the program in collaboration with the site supervisor.

Procedure for site placement and plan for supervision:

- 1) Should approval be obtained and a faculty supervisor identified, the AFWC, in collaboration with the faculty supervisor, will develop learning objectives appropriate to the site and consistent with the expectations of FWII experiences and the curriculum sequence and scope.
- 2) The AFWC will begin exploring likely fieldwork sites that could facilitate the student's ability to meet those learning objectives and which meets the criteria listed

above. This exploration would include the identification of an appropriate site supervisor who meets the criteria listed above.

- 3) Should such a site and supervisor be identified, negotiations between the site administration, site supervisor, the AFWC, and the faculty supervisor will be initiated. Negotiations will include agreement on a detailed description of the responsibilities of all parties to include the provision of occupational therapy services, and the supervisory schedule and responsibilities of the site and faculty supervisors. Arrangements for both direct and on-call supervision by the faculty supervisor will be outlined in writing.
- 4) The site administration and supervisor may request an interview with the student as part of their consideration of this placement.
- 5) Should all parties agree to the specifics of this plan, including the student, a contractual agreement will be initiated by the AFWC and the College's Contract Administrative Assistant. Upon approval of the contract by both the site and the College, placement will be scheduled.
- 6) During the placement itself, the student and faculty supervisor will keep daily logs of the time involved in supervisory activities, both direct and indirect. These logs will be shared weekly with the AFWC who will serve as a check on the level of supervision provided.
- 7) The student's performance will be evaluated collaboratively using the FWPE by the faculty supervisor and site supervisor.