Section VI: Fieldwork and Experiential Component

Overview

Fieldwork education is designed to provide occupational therapy students with opportunities to integrate academically acquired education with practice. It is during the fieldwork experience that the student can learn, practice and refine skills of observation, evaluation, treatment planning, implementation and communication. In the fieldwork setting the student begins to define his or her future roles as a practicing occupational therapist and can develop the necessary self-confidence and affective characteristics essential to meeting the demands for this challenging field. Fieldwork provides many opportunities for feedback which promotes professional behaviors and attitudes and clinical expertise.

Fieldwork is an integral part of the education of an occupational therapist and must occur in an environment that provides those experiences which reinforce previous learning and which challenge and motivate the student to develop professionally and adapt to clinic situations. The academic fieldwork coordinator is responsible for the planning and implementation of integrated and sustained fieldwork experiences. The experiences occur under the supervision of and with the support of occupational therapists or other qualified individuals. To ensure that the fieldwork activities support and enhance the goals of the program there is continual collaboration by clinical educators, academic faculty, and the academic fieldwork coordinator. In keeping with Belmont University’s occupational therapy program’s mission and curriculum design, fieldwork will be directed toward meeting the goals of education for practice, advocacy, and research. The fieldwork experiences are designed to encourage values and behaviors that exemplify professional leadership, integrity, and social consciousness to support the program’s goals to develop ethical practitioners to meet the immediate and future needs of the community.

The occupational therapy program requires both Level I and Level II fieldwork experiences. Level I fieldwork is an integral part of the didactic portion of the educational program. Students are exposed to diverse practice settings to increase their understanding of occupational therapy. Level II fieldwork is the culminating educational experience for the Belmont University occupational therapy student.

The Doctoral Experiential Component required for the doctorate of occupational therapy degree takes the student from generalist skills to advance skills in the area of a student’s choosing with the guidance of an expert and faculty advisor. The student must successfully complete all didactic coursework, fieldwork I and II’s, and competency prior to starting Experiential Component.

Level I Fieldwork

Level I fieldwork has been designed to integrate with intervention courses and assist the student in their role as researcher, advocate, and practitioner with a variety of cultures and service delivery systems, for each of the developmental stages; childhood, adulthood and older adulthood. The experiences include an opportunity to observe and assist in practice with occupational therapists or other qualified personnel in coordination with the academic faculty. The sites include psychosocial practice areas such as exceptional education classrooms, juvenile court programs, homeless shelters, group homes and other community agencies as well as traditional medical model environments to expose the student to new opportunities for
occupational therapy, to identify the role of the advocate and to explore questions for research. The faculty, fieldwork coordinator, fieldwork supervisors and students continually evaluate the experiences to ensure their effectiveness. Preparation of the student prior to each Level I clinical experience includes review of professional behaviors, safety procedures related to student and clients/patients, objectives, and assignments for the individual fieldwork experiences. Students may be required to travel up to 1 hour for fieldwork placements; however, the majority of placements are within a 30 – 45 mile range of the Nashville area. The extensive amount of time allotted to fieldwork, the variety of facilities available, and the close collaboration of faculty and clinical educators are elements incorporated into the fieldwork program to provide opportunity for the student to successfully accomplish the objectives of fieldwork and promote the educational goals of the program.

**Level I Fieldwork Objectives**

Level I fieldwork experiences are integrated so as to provide a sequential exposure to professional practice in concert with didactic and laboratory material presented in the intervention courses. The following general Level I objectives coordinate with the co-requisite intervention course and laboratory objectives and serves as a guide for developing the specific objectives and learning experiences for each of the Level I fieldwork practicum’s. The emphasis is not in independent performance at this level, but rather on the incorporation of professional modes of behaving, communicating, thinking and problem solving through directed observation and participation. The student is expected to meet the Level I performance objectives which will be reviewed in the orientation sessions prior to participating in each Level I experience. Level I fieldwork objectives will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. The student will be given the opportunity to develop an understanding of the OT services which are currently or might be delivered, and will be able to:
   a. Identify the relationship of the facility to the community.
   b. Describe the socio-cultural orientation of the client/patient served.
   c. Identify the relationship of the O.T. School to the facility. In an emerging setting, identify what the occupational therapy profession has to offer the clientele.

2. Students will be given the opportunity to observe the effects of congenital, developmental, acute, and chronic disease processes and traumatic injuries, the effect of such conditions on human functioning and society, and the role of occupational therapy intervention in the remediation, rehabilitation and amelioration of those effects on function (protocols that you have developed and had approved by the OT facility would be considered OT intervention in an emerging practice setting where there are not OT staff). The student will be able to:
   a. Identify and discuss the impact of various conditions - on performance and as observed in clinic or other settings.
   b. Identify and discuss the interventions observed or implemented by yourself under direct supervision and how they impact on the client/patient's level of functioning.
3. Students will be given the opportunity to observe how the impact of self, dyadic, and group interaction affects the therapeutic process and/or the management of service. The student will be able to, in an applied setting:
   a. Explain the impact of self on the therapeutic process.
   b. Critique their strengths and limitations regarding the use of self in the therapeutic process.
   c. Explain the benefit of the group process.
   d. Critique members’ participation in the group process.

4. The student will be introduced to the clinical application of the occupational therapy assessment process. The student will observe and participate with the supervisor in the following data gathering procedures, as appropriate:
   a. Chart/client file review
   b. Interviewing
   c. Standardized or non-standardized test/evaluations
   d. Clinical observation

5. The student will be introduced to the directing, planning, and implementation of the OT intervention process (this would include intervention processes appropriate in emerging practice settings as well). The student will be able to:
   a. Interpret the rationale behind data gathering.
   b. Formulate goals based on strengths and needs
   c. Select appropriate therapeutic occupations.
   d. Discuss the application of therapeutic adaptations for accomplishment of purposeful activities.
   e. Discuss reassessment for effect of occupational therapy intervention and need for continued and/or change in treatment.
   f. Plan and critique group and/or individual treatment or activity sessions appropriate to the facility.
   g. Demonstrate creativity and problem solving.

6. The student will be introduced to the discharge planning process. The student will be able to:
   a. Articulate the factors which influence the termination of OT services.
   b. Participate in post-discharge planning as appropriate.

7. The student will be introduced to the clinical application of professional communication. The student will be able to:
   a. Demonstrate professional verbal and non-verbal communication skills.
   b. Document experiences concisely, accurately and comprehensively.

8. The student will be given the opportunity to practice professional behaviors. The student will be able to demonstrate increased:
   a. Positive self-regard;
   b. Self-awareness;
   c. Interpersonal competence; and
   d. A commitment to learning.
9. The student will be given the opportunity to develop their role as advocate. The student will be able to:
   a. Identify a population for which they can serve as advocate.
   b. Identify the needs of that group.
   c. Identify groups that are serving as advocates and/or strategies for assisting this population.

10. The student will be given the opportunity to enhance their clinical investigative skills. The student will be able to:
    a. Review current literature for its applicability in various practice settings.
    b. Identify questions which are appropriate for research investigation.

11. The student will be given the opportunity to gain skills in program development. The student will be able to:
    a. Identify needs of the agency or facility
    b. Develop a plan to meet the needs
    c. Implement the plan with the approval of the supervisor (if appropriate)
    d. Evaluate the program (if indicated)

12. The student will be given the opportunity to understand how psychosocial issues impact performance:
    a. Identify various degrees of psychological illness
    b. Identify how psychosocial issues impact ADL and IADL performance
    c. Identify support systems for this population

**Level II Fieldwork**

The goal of Level II fieldwork is to develop competent, generalist occupational therapists. Level II fieldwork serves to promote clinical reasoning and reflective practice; to transmit the values, beliefs, and ethical commitments of the field of occupational therapy; to communicate and model professional behaviors attending to the developmental nature of career growth and responsibility; and to develop and expand a repertoire of occupational therapy assessments and treatment interventions related to human performance. Level II fieldwork includes an in-depth experience in delivering occupational therapy services to clients, focusing on the application of purposeful and meaningful occupation and/or research administration and management of occupational therapy services.

Level II fieldwork is designed to provide students with extended practical opportunities for skill exploration, technique refinement and advanced knowledge acquisition pertinent to direct patient/client care. During this experience each student has the opportunity of learning to apply academically acquired knowledge to evaluating, planning and implementing occupational therapy intervention programs for clients in a wide variety of traditional and emerging practice settings.

Although Standards require students to complete a minimum of the equivalent of 24 weeks of full time Level II fieldwork, which may be completed on a full-time or part-time basis, but not less than half time as defined by the fieldwork site. Level II fieldwork for the OTD program at Belmont University consists of two three-month experiences. Level II fieldwork OTD 6480 is taken in the summer after the second year (students will register for the
course in the spring and the fieldwork experience may begin the last week of the spring semester. Students receiving financial aid are encouraged to meet with the financial aid office to determine how this arrangement will impact loans/grants/aid). Level II fieldwork OTD 6580 will be taken in the fall semester of the third year. Students must complete all fieldwork and experiential component requirements within 28 months following completion of academic work.

Level II Fieldwork Objectives

Introduction

Level II fieldwork as established at Belmont University consists of approximately six months of training under the supervision of a qualified, licensed occupational therapist who has at least one year of experience as a licensed OT. The purpose is to provide in-depth experience and gradual assumption of entry-level responsibility for the delivery of occupational therapy services to clients, whether they be individuals, groups, programs, or organizations.

Upon completion of two required 12-week Level II fieldwork experiences the student will be able to integrate and apply theoretical concepts and didactic learning to the practice of occupational therapy. The student must complete 12 consecutive calendar weeks and cannot shorten the number of weeks by working overtime.

The following general objectives have been developed for the Level II fieldwork experiences. Each fieldwork site has individual objectives which have been collaboratively developed by Belmont University’s occupational therapy program and the fieldwork facility and are compatible with these general objectives. The collaboratively developed objectives are found in the files of each fieldwork site and at the fieldwork site. The student is responsible for reading and complying with the objectives for the fieldwork site to which he/she is assigned.

1. The student will demonstrate the ability to utilize appropriate referral, screening and assessment methods. The student:
   a. Obtains appropriate information orally or in written form.
   b. Selects assessment method or instrument which is appropriate for the recipient of services (client, group, organization).
   c. Demonstrates competency in administration of selected assessment instruments.
   d. Analyzes and accurately interprets and reports data/results of evaluations.
   e. Collaborates with the service delivery team in the assessment process.

2. The student will demonstrate the ability to design an intervention plan appropriate to the needs of the service recipient (client, group, organization). The student:
   a. Integrates theoretical knowledge in planning an intervention program.
   b. Collaborates with the client, family, or client advocate in developing and selecting intervention goals, objectives and methods.
   c. Identifies achievable goals that are based on assessment data and collaboration with the individuals or advocates.
   d. Develops long and short-term treatment objectives that are measurable.
   e. Selects appropriate therapeutic modalities for the accomplishment of established
goals and objectives.

3. The student will implement the intervention plan, make modifications based on reevaluation data, and discontinue services when goals, objectives or maximum benefits are achieved. The student:
   a. Implements intervention program according to the plan.
   b. Analyzes the treatment environment and the elements involved in activities/tasks.
   c. Positions the client correctly, adheres to precautions, and assures comfort and/or privacy if indicated.
   d. Intervenes at signs of fatigue, frustration, or inability to continue program.
   e. Provides clear instruction and appropriate encouragement.
   f. Sets limits or structures environment as necessary.
   g. Re-evaluates client's progress and program effectiveness at periodic intervals and makes changes accordingly.
   h. Terminates treatment when goals and objectives have been achieved or when maximum gains have been accomplished.
   i. Summarizes treatment gains in discharge report and recommends post-discharge program.

4. The student will demonstrate the ability to communicate in a professional and therapeutic manner. The student:
   a. Reports accurately and appropriately in oral and written form to the service delivery team and other related agencies/professionals.
   b. Relates in a therapeutic manner with individuals demonstrating the ability to utilize communication skills that meet with needs of the client.
   c. Collaborates and works with other professionals in planning intervention/treatment plans and the general functioning of the program as a whole.

5. The student will understand and participate in the organization and administration of the Occupational Therapy School and the facility in which it exists. The student:
   a. Identifies the administrative structure of the facility and the OT School.
   b. Understands and follows rules and regulations of the facility.
   c. Identifies the roles of other health care professionals in the facility/School.
   d. Performs work in accordance with the policies and procedures of the OT School and/or facility.
   e. Maintains working area, equipment, and supplies as appropriate.
   f. Supervises other personnel appropriately if so delegated.
   g. Documents in chart according to requirements of facility.

6. The student will demonstrate values and attitudes congruent with the profession's standards and ethics. The student:
   a. Develops a broad sense of professional responsibility toward individuals, community and organizations.
   b. Develops an appreciation for the roles of other health care or service delivery professionals.
   c. Understands and demonstrates use of professional ethics.
   d. Understands the legal implications of confidentiality and respects
confidential information.

e. Values the need for accurate and timely records and reports.
f. Assumes authority appropriately and in turn respects authority lines as they exist.
g. Is responsible for separating personal and professional issues.
h. Is dependable and organized and carries out all assigned duties.
i. Shows interest in continued learning through active involvement beyond required tasks.

j. Understands professional ethics and demonstrates this in behavior.

Non-Traditional Level II Fieldwork

In a setting where there is no occupational therapist on site, the program must document that there is a plan for the provision of occupational therapy services. The student must receive a minimum of eight hours of occupational therapy supervision per week, including direct observation of client interaction. Additionally, the clinical supervisor must be readily available for communication and consultation during work hours. Such fieldwork shall not exceed 12 weeks.

Fieldwork Sites and Supervisors

Fieldwork at Belmont University is an integral part of the occupational therapy curriculum. The faculty, clinicians, and students are mutually involved in the process.

The School of Occupational Therapy evaluates and selects fieldwork sites according to specific criteria to meet the needs of the curriculum and to assure that the facility is able to provide adequate supervision and experiences to enable the student to successfully meet the requirements of the AOTA recommended level II evaluation form. All centers utilized for student fieldwork placement meet the requirements and learning objectives of the curriculum. A contractual agreement is completed with all facilities. The Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and fieldwork educators collaborate on objectives, practice activities and the advising of students.

In order for a fieldwork center to maintain the affiliation agreement, it must provide a quality educational experience for the students. In addition, the School of Occupational Therapy and students must conscientiously cooperate and fulfill requirements of the contract.

Fieldwork outside of the United States

*The Standards for the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE, 2008)* stipulate that Level II Fieldwork may be completed outside the United States under the following conditions:

a) The fieldwork does not exceed 12 full-time weeks

b) The fieldwork is supervised by an Occupational Therapist who has graduated from a program approved by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) and has one year in practice.
Students who wish to complete fieldwork abroad must complete this experience as a second Level II Fieldwork. Requests for fieldwork abroad are contingent upon availability of appropriate fieldwork sites and ability to establish contractual agreements in a timely manner.

As with any other Level II Fieldwork, students will be responsible for costs of housing, meals, transportation and all other related fieldwork expenses. Students may be required to purchase additional professional liability insurance.

Fieldwork Participants: Roles and Responsibilities

Fieldwork experience requires that all individuals involved have a mutual understanding of the responsibilities of each person, facility, and organization. The following are recognized roles and responsibilities involved in the fieldwork experience.

Responsibilities of the Fieldwork Coordinator (Academic Setting)

The Academic Fieldwork Coordinator (AFWC) is the faculty member at the educational institution who is responsible for monitoring the fieldwork experiences. The academic program director may act as the Fieldwork Coordinator or delegate the responsibility to another faculty member. If the responsibility is delegated, final authority and responsibility remains with the academic program director.

The responsibilities of the Fieldwork Coordinator include, but are not limited to the following:

1. assigning eligible students to fieldwork experience and confirming the assignment in writing to each Fieldwork Supervisor;

2. assuring that all written contracts or letters of agreement between the educational institution and fieldwork education center are signed and periodically reviewed;

3. making regular and periodic contacts with each fieldwork education center where students were placed;

4. maintaining a current information file on each fieldwork education center where students are placed;

5. identifying new sites for fieldwork education;

6. working with the program director in developing and implementing a policy for the withdrawal of students from a fieldwork education center;

7. orienting students to the general purposes of fieldwork experience and providing them with necessary forms;

8. reassigning students who do not complete original fieldwork assignments in accordance with the educational institution's policies;
9. developing fieldwork experience programs that provide the best opportunity for the implementation of theoretical concepts offered as part of the didactic curriculum;

10. maintaining a collaborative relationship with fieldwork education centers; and

11. sending necessary information and forms for each student to the Fieldwork Supervisor unless responsibility is assigned to the student.

Responsibilities of the Fieldwork Educator/Supervisor (Practice Setting)

Each individual responsible for student training in the fieldwork education center is considered a Fieldwork Educator (FWE). As the learning experience moves away from the educational institution and into the fieldwork education center, the titles of individuals responsible for the fieldwork programs are as varied as the individual setting. Fieldwork Educators may also be known as Clinical Educators, Fieldwork Supervisors, or Student Supervisors.

Two major areas of responsibility required of the Fieldwork II Supervisor are administrative functions and direct day-to-day supervision. Various arrangements can be made within the fieldwork education center for fulfillment of these responsibilities. The administrative responsibilities may be delegated to one individual who may be designated Student Training Supervisor or Student Fieldwork Coordinator. The day-to-day supervision of students may be delegated to one or more staff members. It is also feasible, particularly in smaller centers, for one individual to assume all of the administrative and direct day-to-day supervisory functions. The administrative responsibilities of the Fieldwork Supervisor include, but are not limited to the following:

1. collaborating with the Fieldwork Coordinator in the development of a program that provides the best opportunity for the implementation of theoretical concepts offered as part of the academic educational program;
2. preparing, maintaining, and sending to the Fieldwork Coordinator current information about the fieldwork education center, including a statement of the conceptual models from which evaluation is derived, and upon which treatment is based;
3. scheduling students in collaboration with the Fieldwork Coordinator;
4. establishing objectives of the fieldwork experience and identifying the philosophy of the fieldwork experience center;
5. contributing to the evaluation of each student at the midpoint and final. One copy of the final document must be signed by both the Fieldwork Educator and the student and sent to the Fieldwork Coordinator of the academic educational institution in which the student is enrolled (the student is also entitled to a copy);
6. being familiar with the policy regarding the “withdrawal of students from fieldwork experience” of each academic educational institution from which students are accepted;
7. notifying the Fieldwork Coordinator of any student for whom the fieldwork education center is requesting withdrawal;
8. Reviewing periodically the contractual agreement between the academic
educational institution and the fieldwork education center and ensuring that these agreements are signed;
9. providing regular and periodic supervision of students;
10. prompting regular and periodic supervision of students;
11. Completing the final fieldwork evaluation form and sending one copy (signed by the student and the Fieldwork Supervisor) to the academic institution (also keep one copy for center and provide one to student if requested).

The **direct day-to-day supervisory responsibilities** of the Fieldwork Supervisor include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Providing an adequate orientation to the fieldwork education center and to specific
   school policies and procedures, usually in the form of a student manual;
2. assigning patients/clients to the student;
3. supervising the provision of occupational therapy services, documentation, and oral reporting by the student;
4. assessing the skill and knowledge level of the student;
5. meeting with the student regularly to review performance and to provide guidance; and
6. evaluating the student at the midpoint and termination of the fieldwork experience using the fieldwork evaluation instrument based on the center's written behavioral objectives.

**Responsibilities of the Student**

The student is the learner who is enrolled in a course of study at an educational institution leading to a degree in occupational therapy. The student is expected to collaborate with the Fieldwork Educator and the Fieldwork Coordinator to ensure compliance with fieldwork experience requirements.

The student is responsible for the following:

1. writing and sending a letter confirming the fieldwork experience dates to the fieldwork educator six weeks in advance of the starting date. In addition, the student is required to complete and send a Personal Data Sheet and a memorandum of insurance and health information to the facility and to the Belmont School of Occupational Therapy to be placed in the student's academic file;
2. complying with all policies and procedures of the fieldwork education center unless exempted, including prompt notification of student absences;
3. fulfilling all duties and assignments made by the Fieldwork Educator and Fieldwork Coordinator, unless exempted, within the time limit specified;
4. notifying the fieldwork education center and educational program of current address and telephone;
5. completing and presenting to the Fieldwork Educator at least one copy of the student's evaluation of the fieldwork center;
6. having available copies of the appropriate performance evaluation forms
and student evaluation forms unless forms are sent by the Fieldwork Coordinator; being an active participant in the supervisory process.

Fieldwork Education Policies and Procedures

General fieldwork information will be updated periodically. All changes will be distributed to students as they are made. Students are responsible for reading, understanding and following all current fieldwork policies. Level I fieldwork information will be provided in a Level I orientation during fieldwork seminar class. A Level II fieldwork packet with appropriate information will be provided by the Fieldwork Coordinator. Information regarding specific Level II fieldwork sites are in the files (both paper and computerized files), which can be accessed through the Program Assistant and/or the Fieldwork Coordinator. These files provide a description of the facility, specific requirements of the placement, a copy of the Clinical Affiliation Agreement for that institution, and requirements of the Level II fieldwork sites. Questions concerning Level II fieldwork should be directed to Belmont University’s Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Dr. Allison Koch. All required forms will be provided online in corresponding Blackboard courses or on E*Value. See Appendices A, B, and C for Professional Behaviors Forms found at the end of this manual.

Advising

Level I fieldwork advising is done throughout clinical assignments by the fieldwork supervisor, Belmont University occupational therapy faculty, and the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. The fieldwork coordinator and/or faculty will visit Level I sites when necessary and are available for student advising or fieldwork concerns.

The second year students will schedule an appointment with the Fieldwork Coordinator in the Fall and Spring semesters of their second year. Students meet with their academic advisors each semester to set goals and review their progress thus far in the curriculum. Professional behaviors must be found satisfactory before participation in Level II fieldwork will occur. The second year students will use the results of the OTKE to develop individual learning goals; the students will develop the goals at the initiation of Level II fieldwork. The students will use the goals to add to an individualized professional development plan.

Advising on Level II fieldwork is done collaboratively by the fieldwork supervisor and the Belmont University Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. A personal data sheet for each student is sent to both Level I and Level II fieldwork sites. Instructions and forms for each level of fieldwork are discussed in fieldwork seminar courses and paperwork has been provided to students electronically in their Blackboard courses. Review of the forms and discussion of experiences will be covered in the orientation session. It is important for students to be forthright about health concerns or any accommodations that are needed for learning and participation on fieldwork. An orientation session will be provided for students before Level II fieldwork experiences. The Fieldwork Coordinator will be available to the students for advising on Level II assignments. Site visits will be made upon request of the facility or student.

Attendance

Attendance on all clinical days is required; two excused absences will be allowed per semester for Level I fieldwork with the approval of the Fieldwork Coordinator and Clinical
Instructor. Excused absences must be approved in advance with a plan for when missed fieldwork will be made up. If a student has a severe illness and/or a death has occurred in the student’s family, the student must follow the procedures of the facility and notify the facility immediately if they will be absent. A schedule for making up the time missed due to absence must be acceptable to the facility and approved by the academic fieldwork
coordinator and/or assigned faculty within 1 week post-absence. A student is allowed a maximum of three absences from Level II fieldwork. Before each absence, a student must provide documentation to both the AFWC and the FWE, clearly indicating the reason for the absence. Whether or not a student must make up the missed days is at the discretion of the fieldwork educator. More than three absences from fieldwork will result in failure and will require a meeting with the AFWC, the FWE and the student unless the absences are due to an unforeseen serious medical condition or other unusual circumstance. Medical appointments, travel, out-of-town company and studying for exams are NOT valid reasons to miss a scheduled fieldwork. Absenteeism and tardiness may affect the grade or result in failure.

**Background Checks**

Additional background checks and/or fingerprinting may be required for designated fieldwork sites. The student will be given the required level of background check needed for that site. Costs incurred for background checks and fingerprinting will be the responsibility of the student.

**Conduct**

The Belmont University Student Professional Behaviors and the AOTA Code of Ethics apply to all Level I and Level II fieldwork experiences in addition to the specified behaviors required by the specific clinical sites.

**Confidentiality**

One area which is especially critical on fieldwork assignments is the issue of confidentiality. The sharing of confidential information outside the facility must be avoided. A breach of confidentiality could impact negatively on care of a particular client and is viewed as serious misconduct on the part of the student. In such a situation, the student may be dropped from the facility’s fieldwork program.

Talking about a client in the elevator or where other people are present is also of concern. Posting information on social networking sites violating confidentiality of a site and/or client must be avoided as well. Information pertaining to one client/patient must not be shared with another client. It is essential that confidentiality within a setting be maintained.

**Dress Code**

Please refer to the dress code policy within the body of the student manual.

**Drug Testing**

Drug testing may be required for designated fieldwork or experiential component sites. The student will be given the required level of drug testing needed for that site. Costs incurred for drug testing will be up to the individual student. It is up to the student to contact the site and obtain the necessary information regarding where to obtain the drug screen, what
panel of drug screen is needed etc.

**Evaluation**

On completing a fieldwork experience, the student will be required to critique the experience. The Student Evaluation of Fieldwork Experience (SEFWE) form, developed by the AOTA Commission on Education, will be used by students to critique Level II fieldwork. This form must be completed and received by the fieldwork coordinator in order to receive a grade. Evaluative information is used by the fieldwork site and the Belmont University School of Occupational Therapy to improve its fieldwork experience and academic program. This process also provides the student an opportunity to practice their ability to objectively assess an experience in a professionally acceptable manner. In order to successfully pass fieldwork II, a student must have at least a score of 3 in each category on the final evaluation.

**Fieldwork Performance Intervention Policy**

On occasion it becomes necessary to terminate a Level I or Level II fieldwork placement. This may occur for a variety of reasons and with a variety of consequences. In all cases, client, student and staff safety is our primary concern.

This policy is intended to provide an overview of the possible situations which may result in the termination of a fieldwork experience.

I. Student is terminated due to extraordinary circumstances such as: student extended illness; personal or family hardship; natural disaster (flood, tornado etc.); supervising therapist is no longer available and no replacement is available at site; facility closes unexpectedly; etc.

   When the reason for the termination is NOT due to any unprofessional behaviors by the student or their failure to meet competency, the student will not be penalized for the termination. The student will receive an incomplete for the rotation. Once the issues leading up to the termination have been resolved, arrangements will be made, in collaboration with the student, to secure a new site based on the availability of other sites. Graduation may be delayed dependent on the timeframe needed for acquiring a new fieldwork site, contract, and start date.

II. The Academic Fieldwork Coordinator (AFWC) receives notification from the Fieldwork Educator/Supervisor that student is demonstrating unprofessional behaviors, is not competent to perform assigned tasks, and/or is a safety risk to self, patients and/or staff.

   The Fieldwork Educator and AFWC counsel the student on corrective actions. A learning contract is established to attempt to remediate/correct the identified issues. The learning contract will include, but is not limited to: a description of the problem; suggested learning strategies; outcome measures; time lines; and consequences
of success or failure to meet requirements set forth in the plan. The fieldwork educator (FWE) monitors student progress and provides formal (written) and informal feedback to the student and AFWC at intervals established in the learning contract.

If the student does not meet the expectations outlined in the learning contract the fieldwork placement will be terminated and the student will receive a grade of “F” for the placement and the student is dismissed from the OTD program.

Failure may occur prior to midterm. Immediate removal (prior to the scheduled ending date) from the site and/or a failing grade may be given for any fieldwork placement for the following:
- violation of patients’ rights
- violation of the rights of others
- violation of the AOTA Code of Ethics
- unprofessional behavior
- unsafe practice
- substance abuse
- failure to complete any of the specified requirements
- continued unsatisfactory performance
- insubordination
- excessive tardiness
- risks to patient care
- a score below a “3” on items 1 – 3 of Section 1 of the FWPE (Fundamentals of Practice)

As described in the online Graduate Catalog under Progression toward Graduation a grade of WF (withdrawal failing) or F (failure) will result in immediate dismissal from the OTD Program.

If a student fails a Level I or Level II placement, they may apply for re-admission although acceptance is not guaranteed. In addition, if a student is re-accepted, the fieldwork course cannot be repeated until the course is offered in a subsequent semester.

Financial Responsibilities

The student will be responsible for all expenses associated with the fieldwork experience except for the liability insurance. Each student should anticipate additional cost for housing, meals, and transportation for relocation for Level II fieldwork. Drug screens, additional background checks, fingerprinting, or a small paperwork fee may be required by a fieldwork site which can be an extra financial responsibility the student must incur.

Geographical Location of Fieldwork Site Policy
Belmont University Academic Fieldwork Coordinators (AFWC) work diligently to create a positive match between a student’s interests and learning needs and the attributes of each fieldwork site. Specific requests for fieldwork placements are considered, but cannot be guaranteed.

Every attempt is made for students attending the OTD program who are residents of Nashville to be placed at a site in or around Nashville. This region covers a large geographical area and is considered by this program to encompass the counties highlighted in the picture below.

Students should expect to be placed for any level I and level II fieldworks at sites in Davidson or any of these surrounding counties. Requests to change a fieldwork site based on only geographical location will not be considered. For more information about requests to change fieldwork assignments, please see that specific policy.

Grading and Evaluation of Student Performance

Evaluation of student performance during the Level I fieldwork experience is an ongoing process which occurs during the formal and informal supervisory sessions by the fieldwork supervisor, fieldwork coordinator and/or faculty. The specific grading system will be contained in the course syllabus. The student evaluation forms will be provided online in the fieldwork seminar course as well as on E*Value. The Fieldwork Coordinator will assign a grade based on input from the fieldwork supervisor(s) which includes the final written reports on clinical skills and professional behaviors. It is the student’s responsibility to review these evaluation forms and raise any questions regarding the expectations with the coordinator prior to beginning the fieldwork placement. The student must pass both the fieldwork experience and the fieldwork seminar in order to pass the Level I course. Level II grades will be based on the AOTA Recommended Evaluation Form, which will be in the fieldwork packet. The fieldwork supervisor will review the evaluation with the student.

Health Issues

In addition to the Belmont University health form and other health-related procedures, the fieldwork student may need to comply with specific health requirements for individual fieldwork sites, such as immunizations or physical exams. These will usually be at the student’s expense. It is the student’s responsibility to read the contract, the fieldwork data form and other information in the file of the facilities to which they are assigned for Level I and Level II placements. The student must communicate with the fieldwork clinical coordinator prior to the starting date of the affiliation. This is to insure that students know
when and where to meet the fieldwork supervisor, appropriate dress, and health requirements.

During Level I and Level II fieldwork the occupational therapy student may use Belmont University’s Health Services clinic. Obviously in some cases this will not be convenient. The student will be expected to show proof of personal health insurance coverage before being accepted for Level I and Level II fieldwork placement. Students may contact Belmont Central for information on low cost student health insurance if they have no other health insurance coverage.

Each student is required to have a physical examination and specified immunizations at the student’s own expense each year. The necessary forms are provided to the students the summer prior to initial enrollment. These forms need to be signed by the examining physician prior to matriculation in the program, and need to be updated yearly. If the student fails to provide the necessary information by their yearly deadline, they will be suspended from all classes until the necessary information is provided. Proof that health requirements are met may be sent to the fieldwork sites along with the Personal Data Form which is also in the fieldwork packet.

HIPPA

Students should be aware of the importance of complying with all relevant state and federal confidentiality laws, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), to the extent applicable. In addition, Belmont University agrees to provide students and faculty with training in the requirements of the privacy and security provisions of HIPAA and to advise them of the importance of complying with Facility's policies and procedures relative to HIPAA. This information will be disseminated prior to students beginning any of their required fieldwork (Level I and Level II). Students will be required to document in writing that they have received, read, and understand the significance and meaning of PHI, the appropriate use of PHI for educational needs, the significance and need for confidentiality of PHI, and the consequences of inappropriate use of PHI.

Each student will be required to sign an acknowledgment page pertaining to patient confidentiality and HIPPA. The student agrees to the following:

An integral part of the occupational therapy educational experience is having access to Protected Health Information (PHI) of the patients under your care. Maintaining the confidentiality of patients is a legal matter as well as an ethical one. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) provides very specific guidelines to protect the privacy of patients and outlines the penalties of violations of that privacy. Students will be provided with training in the requirements of the privacy and security provisions of HIPPA and will be required to document in writing that they have received, read, and understand these policies and procedures.

Liability Insurance

The occupational therapy students are covered for professional liability insurance for a single limit of not less than $2 million per occurrence/$5 million aggregate. A copy of the liability insurance is sent to each site in which a student is placed.

Monitoring and Site Visits

Site visits and telephone monitoring are primarily made by the Academic Fieldwork
Coordinator, but may be made by any member of the School of Occupational Therapy. The purpose of the monitoring is multidimensional and may include, but is not limited to:
- student performance evaluation
- clinical site evaluation
- clinical instructor evaluation
- assistance with implementation of clinical education program
- assistance with managing student performance problems
- clinical staff education and development

If a site visit is needed, the visit will entail meeting with the student and the fieldwork supervisor both individually and together to discuss the types of learning experiences, strengths and weaknesses of the student performance and strengths and weaknesses of the student’s academic preparation. The discussion will be documented and appropriate information will be shared with the academic faculty.

Placement

Assignments for Level I fieldwork are made by the facility and Fieldwork Coordinator based upon availability of sites, course requirements and student needs. These fieldwork sites will typically be in the Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky areas. Students are assigned by a lottery system to the Level I fieldwork sites.

The Fieldwork Coordinator will initiate a discussion of Level II fieldwork with students in the first year of the program explaining the purpose and types of experience available. Additional information regarding fieldwork sites, type of rotation, rotation dates and confirmation of placements will be provided in the second year. Level II placements are based upon the academic and clinical needs of the student, the student’s preference, and the availability when coordinated with other student’s choices. Some of these placements will be outside of the Middle Tennessee area and in other states. The student must be prepared to relocate to fieldwork sites outside of commuting distance from Nashville.

If a placement is canceled the Fieldwork Coordinator will meet with the student to determine an alternate plan. If this occurs the placement may be delayed which may result in postponement of graduation.

If a student has identified a facility which they believe would serve as an appropriate placement the student should contact the Fieldwork Coordinator. Students are NOT to make contact with any facilities on behalf of the Belmont University School of Occupational Therapy. Contacts are only to be made by the Fieldwork Coordinator.

The Fieldwork I course OTD 6160 is completed in the spring semester of the first year. Fieldwork I course OTD 6360 and OTD 6460 are scheduled in the fall and spring semesters of the second year. The scheduling for specific sites will be assigned in the seminar sessions at the beginning of each semester.

Level II will occur during the summer semester after the second year and the Fall semester of the third year. Although the dates may change due to the needs of the facilities, the dates are confirmed by the Fieldwork Coordinator and the fieldwork educator.
Rescheduling of dates with the fieldwork site is not possible. Once any placement has been confirmed the student is not allowed to change to a different site. See request to change fieldwork policy below.

For Level II placements, students rank areas of practice according to their interests. The Academic Fieldwork Coordinator will attempt to place students in the population/area of practice they are interested. The Academic Fieldwork Coordinator reserves the right to place the student at a placement in order to enable the student to meet curricular requirements.

Students requesting out of state placements must provide a letter in writing with a plan for housing arrangements. The University does not make housing arrangements for students. If a student is unable to produce a confirmed housing plan, the placement will not be arranged.

The site supervisor determines the training schedule which may involve evenings and weekends. The School of Occupational Therapy suggests that the student not work while completing level II fieldwork placements because there are usually assignments that need to be done in the evening and weekends.

Requests to Change Fieldwork Site Policy

The School of Occupational Therapy Academic Fieldwork Coordinators (AFWC) work very diligently to obtain fieldwork placements that are educationally and experientially enriching for our students. Student input is often sought prior to confirming slots. Occasionally a student may not be consulted about a particular placement due to extenuating circumstances. In those cases, every attempt to make the best possible match between student and site is made.

Once a site has been confirmed for a student, Belmont’s position is that the commitment to the site and to the Fieldwork Educator (FE) must be honored. For that reason, Belmont AFWC will not change confirmed sites except in cases of emergency or extreme hardship. Any such request must be made in writing to the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator at least two months prior to the projected start of fieldwork. Upon receipt of the written request, the AFWC must assemble a panel of no fewer than 2 faculty and 3 AFWC to process the request and either grant or deny the request. The AFWC has three weeks from the time the initial request is received to assemble the panel. From that point, the panel has two weeks to make a determination and respond in writing to the student.

Granting the student’s request may significantly delay the student starting fieldwork as another placement must be sought, the clinical affiliation agreement confirmed and confirmation of a slot for the student obtained from a Fieldwork Educator at the site.

Safety

*BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS:* Prior to you going out on the first level I FW, you will be oriented to the safety guidelines surrounding correct hand washing, protective gear, and blood borne pathogens. This is done in the OTD 6160 Adulthood population fieldwork seminar occurring in the second semester of the first year. Students view a video, discuss its contents and take a quiz on blood borne pathogens. The quiz is placed in their FW file.
CPR and FIRST AID CERTIFICATIONS: All students are expected to obtain a CPR certification at their own expense. A copy of this certification is placed in their FW file. You must be Infant, Child, and Adult certified. If you choose to do the Healthcare Provider class through the Red Cross or American Heart Association, it will certify you for all three. This must stay current while in our program.

* A copy of your First Aid Card must stay current and on file while in our program.

Social Networking Policy

Communication with fieldwork supervisors or Belmont OT faculty through a social networking site is strongly discouraged. Please use email, blackboard email, face to face conversations or phone conversations as a means to communicate. Texting is not appropriate unless this is specifically requested by a fieldwork supervisor or faculty.