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Classroom to Clinic Connection Questions For Occupational Therapy (OT) Fieldwork Educators

Fieldwork aims to offer enriched experiential learning for OT students. The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) Standard C.1.1. states that fieldwork programs should "ensure that the fieldwork experience reflects the sequence and scope of content in the curriculum design, in collaboration with faculty, so that fieldwork strengthens the ties between didactic and fieldwork education" (ACOTE, 2018, p.36). In compliance with these Standards, the following sample questions aim to connect a fieldwork student's academic knowledge to the clinical setting, thereby linking curriculum design to the fieldwork experience.

"Can I look at your course syllabus that you have in conjunction with this fieldwork?"

"What class assignments and due dates do you have this semester?" Awareness of assignments such as discussion boards, reflective journaling, and case studies can help you, the educator, guide student observations and perspective-building to facilitate well-rounded learning.

"Have you had any Interprofessional Education (IPE) experiences throughout your program?" This can help draw comparisons from mock learning scenarios in preparation for team meetings and other interdisciplinary events.

"Tell me about intervention techniques and strategies that you have learned throughout coursework in..." (specific to your setting). Parallel these with your current caseload to maximize student preparation and readiness.

"Which courses or academic topics have been your favorites throughout your education?" This question may indicate areas of student therapeutic strengths.

"What topics or intervention areas did you find to be the most challenging?" This question will indicate where you will want to provide extra support or learning opportunities for the student.

"What assessments did you use for classroom assignments and/or for any practicum experiences?"

"Have you participated in any service learning or special learning projects that have helped prepare you for this fieldwork?"

Remember! For any assignments, especially case studies, that may require the student to upload patient documentation - always double check a student's de-identified documents. Make sure you know your site protocol regarding the provision of documents off site.

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