



TOTA

TEXAS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Fieldwork education in occupational therapy (OT) connects classroom instruction and simulated experiences to clinical practice. It is a sequential learning model that cultivates a broad range of professional skills necessary to achieve entry-level competency.

Level I Fieldwork

An introductory educational experience where students engage in observational learning and opportunities to apply knowledge gained from academic coursework across diverse practice settings.

- Unstructured guidelines for length, time, and setting of rotations.
- Benefits include interactive observations and familiarity with different settings and populations. Active participation may occur alongside structured and stringent supervision. Experiences may include teletherapy settings, simulated environments, faculty practice, faculty-led sites, and clinical practice.
- Supervision qualifications include, but are not limited to, licensed occupational therapists, social workers, physicians and physician assistants, teachers, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists.
- Purpose is to establish a foundation for client-centered care and provide engaging experiences that connect academic content to therapeutic practice.

Level II Fieldwork

An advanced educational experience that includes 16 weeks for occupational therapy assistant and 24 weeks for occupational therapy programs. The intent is to develop professional qualities alongside safe and sufficient clinical and therapeutic reasoning capacities.

- Structured guidelines for length, time, and settings as established by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).
- Benefits include dynamic engagement and application of OT services with experience in diverse practice settings and with patients across the lifespan.
- Supervision qualifications for traditional settings include a licensed occupational therapist with a minimum of 1 year of full-time practice.
- Supervision qualifications in environments lacking OT services include guidance by a licensed occupational therapist with a minimum of 3 years of full-time practice experience and 8 hours of direct weekly supervision from the supervising OT. The OT must provide extensive contact availability during all working hours. The site must also have a designated professional who can oversee all service provisions.
- Supervision is scaffolded from direct to less direct oversight as appropriate per client and setting.
- Purpose is to develop proficiencies in the delivery and management of occupational therapy services that encompass generalist skill sets with entry-level capabilities.

Molly Amlung, OTR

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. (2023). *Standards and Interpretive Guide*.
<https://acoteonline.org/accreditation-explained/standards/>

Deluliis, E. D. & Hanson, D. (2023). Overview of level II fieldwork. In E. D. Deluliis & D. Hanson (Eds.), *Fieldwork educator's guide to level II fieldwork* (pp. 3-27). SLACK Incorporated.