Introduction

The emphasis of Level II Fieldwork at Eastern Washington University is to further develop student’s skills in professional behaviors, communication and occupation-based practice in order to practice as an entry level occupational therapist. Level II Fieldwork occurs at the end of the academic courses, with most students beginning their first fieldwork summer quarter. Students have two years in which to complete 24 weeks of full time fieldwork, but are encouraged to complete it immediately following academic coursework in order to optimize on prior learning. Fieldwork sites will encompass a variety of settings to allow the student a wide range of choices to individualize their preference for a particular practice setting. Students are required to complete one of their fieldwork sites in an adult physical disabilities setting to provide a firm foundation in which to build clinical reasoning skills. Students are encouraged to choose a second fieldwork of their interest. This may include mental health, pediatrics or community based sites. Qualified occupational therapist will provide supervision of students during Level II fieldwork experiences. If the student is in a role emerging practice area, Occupational Therapists must be available for a minimum of 8 hours per week for direct supervision.

Level II Fieldwork Objectives

The overall objective of Fieldwork II is for the student to be able to function as an entry level occupational therapist with competencies in occupation based practice that will enable the graduate to provide occupational therapy services in health care, human service systems, community settings and emerging areas of practice. To ensure completion of this goal, Eastern Washington University identified three major sections with 43 specific objectives for Fieldwork II. These areas are: 1.) Occupation Based Practice, 2.) Communication and Professional Behaviors, and 3.) Commitment to the Common Good. Refer to the document titled Fieldwork Level II Objectives
for further information about general expectations for the Level II Fieldwork experience.

**Scheduling of Level II Fieldwork Experiences**

Level II Fieldwork sites will be located throughout the nation, with the majority of sites in Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon. The Memorandum of Understanding is a joint contract with the departments of Speech and Hearing and Physical Therapy. This allows for collaboration between departments on appropriate fieldwork sites for students. The Fieldwork coordinators from occupational, physical and speech therapy meet monthly to discuss site specifics and concerns.

During winter quarter of their first year, the academic fieldwork coordinator meets with students as a group to explain the fieldwork process. The AFC then schedules individual sessions to discuss fieldwork preferences. The level II Fieldwork Request Form is filled out by the student specifying their first four choices for each fieldwork. (Please see the appendices for an example of this form.)

A number of factors are considered and discussed with the student in helping them decide on a fieldwork site. These are: 1.) the site’s ability to provide appropriate supervision and experiences, 2.) an appropriate match of the student’s learning style and learning needs to the site, and 3.) consideration the student’s geographical preference, practice setting preference and scheduling requirements.

Each student is required to attend one 12 week fieldwork outside the greater Spokane area. This requirement decreases the burden of local OT’s from providing all the fieldwork education to students. It also allows the students to experience occupational therapy practice in a variety of regions. If a student feels they are unable to attend to a fieldwork outside the Spokane area, they must write an explanation to the AFC. The AFC and faculty will decide if other arrangements would be appropriate.

Once the student has completed the Fieldwork request form, the AFC will contact the corresponding sites to check availability. Once there is verbal agreement of availability, the AFC will complete the Level II Fieldwork Placement Form (see appendices for form detail) and the student, AFC and
fieldwork educator will all sign the form if in agreement. A copy of this form will be given to both the student and the fieldwork educator at that particular site.

The assignment of a site for a Fieldwork II experience may need to change after the selection process. Sites may cancel the assigned fieldwork student due to staffing changes, shift in management or ownership of the facility, availability of clinical fieldwork dates or other events that cannot be foreseen or controlled by the AFC. The AFC will make every attempt to maintain the fieldwork assignments as selected by notifying the site of the request for the fieldwork dates at least four months prior to the scheduled fieldwork. However, occupational therapy is a very dynamic profession and fieldwork staff at potential sites may change frequently. This may alter the ability of a site to provide a good educational environment for the student. Students are highly discouraged to request a change in sites and the AFC must approve reasons for changing a clinical fieldwork site once it is selected.

Students will be enrolled in OCTH 512—Fieldwork seminar during their last academic quarter immediately preceding fieldwork II. During this seminar they will be writing their introductory letters with attached personal data sheet to their fieldwork educator. These letters will be sent to their facilities 6 weeks before fieldwork begins. Students will also ensure that their fieldwork notebooks are up to date with all required documents such as insurance, immunizations and training.

**Attendance**

Except for illness, personal or family emergencies, there are no acceptable reasons for absence from the scheduled fieldwork experience. If a student must be absent from the Level II Fieldwork experience they should follow the establish guidelines of their facility. Most sites require students to call their fieldwork educator to report any absences. During a 12-week fieldwork, if a student misses more than three days due to illness or emergency, they must make up these absences at the discretion of the fieldwork educator at their site.

**Assessment of Student Performance for Level II Education**
At the mid-term and conclusion of the fieldwork experience, the site fieldwork educator will complete an evaluation of the student ‘s performance in meeting the Level II fieldwork objectives. The AOTA document titled *Fieldwork performance Evaluation for the Occupational Therapy Student* will be used at both the mid-term and final evaluations.

The site supervisor will be asked to review the evaluation with the student at the completion of fieldwork. The mid-term may be copied and mailed to the AFC. The final that is also mailed at the conclusion of the fieldwork should be the original document.

The AFC will call all site supervisors during weeks 3 and 4 to check on the student’s progress and to be available for any questions and/or concerns that the site supervisor has.

Students must pass both 12-week placements in order to stand for the NBCOT exam. If a Level II placement is not satisfactorily completed, a student will be scheduled for an additional placement. If a second Level II Fieldwork is unsatisfactorily completed, the student will be subject to dismissal from the program.

Note: Students will bring the required forms with them on the first day of fieldwork.

**Student Evaluation of the Level II Fieldwork Experience**

All students must complete an evaluation of the Level II Fieldwork experience during the final week of the fieldwork. The student will document their experience using *The Student Evaluation of Fieldwork Experience, AOTA*. This form will be reviewed and signed by the fieldwork educator and mailed back with the final student’s performance evaluation to the AFC.

**Management of Problems Occurring During Level II Fieldwork Placement**

If the student experiences a problem during the fieldwork experience, the student should discuss the issues immediately with the site supervisor. The goal of the fieldwork education program is to provide student s with positive
learning experiences, and the site supervisor and AFC are both available to provide guidance to resolve problems.

If further intervention is necessary, the site supervisor and the AFC will discuss the situation. A meeting with the student will be held. A plan for the resolution of the problem will be identified and written in the form a learning contract for the student. The student, site supervisor and AFC will all sign the form.

If student problems continue, the site supervisor and AFC will determine the need for further learning contracts. If the student is unable to pass the designated learning criteria for that fieldwork experience, the Level II Fieldwork experience must be repeated.

Note: Please see the Policy for Dismissal in section one.