



COMMUNITY FIELDWORK PLACEMENT OBJECTIVES

Community placements for fieldwork experience will provide opportunities for students to become familiar with community resources and to understand how the needs of people in the community are being met by these organizations. Without an active occupational therapy program in place, students will have the opportunity to apply knowledge acquired in occupational therapy foundation courses to their experience at an assigned setting. Students will be expected to develop project ideas that will benefit the assigned setting and fit with the philosophy and theory of occupational therapy. Students will also have the opportunity to apply lessons learned in research classes and will be encouraged to participate in research projects when possible.

Goals for all Placements:

Students will gain experience interacting with people in the community who are in need of the resources provided by community organizations.

Students will gain experience working with agencies that serve people with special needs, will learn how these agencies function and will gain an understanding of the funding resources needed to operate such organizations.

Students will explore possible roles for occupational therapy in community settings.

Students will provide assistance/service to the agencies to which they are assigned.

Students are not expected to function purely as volunteers. The student experience will be in collaboration with ongoing University of Utah courses and will have an educational component appropriate for the student's level of education.

Students are not able to function as occupational therapists or occupational therapy consultants. They are able to function as occupational therapy students.

Student Learning Objectives for all Placements:

By completion of the fieldwork experience, the student will be able to:

Knowledge:

- Describe the needs of clients served by the agency.
- Describe the interaction of person, environment and occupation factors on performance in the context of the community setting.
- Identify potential roles or contributions for occupational therapy in this agency or a similar agency.

Attitudes:

- Develop an increased comfort level interacting with persons who have disabilities, emotional problems, psychiatric disorders or for whatever reason are having difficulty succeeding in mainstream American life.
- Cultivate a spirit of volunteerism and describe the benefits of such activity as a way to support professional development while contributing to the local community
- Verbalize the importance of promoting the health of individuals in the community (outside institutional settings).
- Demonstrate respect for the values and diversity of persons with disabilities, caregivers, staff and volunteers in community settings.
- Demonstrate an attitude of inquiry to enhance creativity and problem solving skills, especially for proposal of new occupational therapy contributions or roles.

Skills/behaviors:

- Display effective communication skills (verbal and nonverbal) and professional behavior at the community agency.
- Identify and address psychological and social factors that influence engagement in occupation at the community agency. Students will be expected to develop project ideas that address psychological/social needs and that will benefit the assigned setting and fit with the philosophy and theory of occupational therapy
- Improve observation skills.
- Identify factors in the community agency that influence function of individuals with disabilities.