

OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

FW 1.8 Level II Fieldwork

FW 1.8.4 International Fieldwork Experience Procedure

International Fieldwork Experiences

Students who are enrolled in the OTA Program at Ozarks Technical Community College may be eligible to complete Level I or Level II fieldwork experiences outside of the United States. All experiences must comply with the standards set forth by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), as well as the policies and procedures of Ozarks Technical Community College and OTA Program.

If any fieldtrip, observation, or service-learning experience is to count for Level I or Level II credit, then a Memorandum of Understanding is required. Written guidelines clarifying responsibilities of student, OTA Program, and the fieldwork site must be established. Contact information and procedures in emergency situations must be delineated. Documentation of liability insurance and mechanisms for handling student health needs must be noted. The AFWC should establish written criteria for selecting an international Level I or Level II fieldwork site.

Each experience outside of the United States will be limited to 8 weeks in length. The OTC Academic Fieldwork Coordinator must ensure that all Level II students attending fieldwork outside of the United States are supervised by an occupational therapist that graduated from a program approved by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists and has 1 year of experience in practice. Level 1 students may be supervised by qualified personnel with a working knowledge of OT. However, the supervisor does not have to be an OT or OTA. All international fieldwork must meet the supervision requirements of Missouri State Licensure and AOTA Guidelines for Supervision of OTA students during the experience. In some instances, other faculty may have more expertise or cultural competency than the AFWC. Other faculty may be assigned to coordinate or supervise the international experience in these instances.

Per the OTC Global Education and International Travel Policy (2.54), the College administration and staff shall be authorized to develop necessary procedures, guidelines, and requirements for students and staff who choose to participate in study-abroad travel, such guidelines shall be comprehensive and include provisions for permission and liability waivers, emergency information and procedures, health insurance, behavior requirements, and other items deemed appropriate. Each study abroad experience must be approved by the appropriate academic dean and by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

OTA students traveling out-of-country for fieldwork experiences must exhibit a high level of skill and professional behaviors. Students requesting international experiences must demonstrate:

1. Emotional stability
2. Ability to work independently
3. High level of clinical skills
4. High level of verbal and written communication skills
5. Ability to take feedback and use it effectively to alter behavior
6. Cultural competency and sensitivity
7. Compliance with all supervision, health, and travel requirements
8. Average grades of 90% or above in all courses.

Qualifications for participating in an international experience will be documented through evidence of the above skills with final approval of the OTA Program Director and AFWC.

References:

AOTA Guide for Planning International Fieldwork

OTC Policies and Procedures Manual