

OT Newsbreak

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FIELDWORK: WHAT IS “EXCELLENT?”

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Fieldwork is a critical piece in the educational process of our future colleagues. It is the bridge our profession provides between academics and practice by introducing practice to students and bringing current academic knowledge to practice. Recognizing the importance of quality fieldwork experiences for students as well as the importance of skill development as fieldwork educators for clinicians, AOTA, in coordination with the Commission on Education (COE), developed *Criteria for Excellence* for fieldwork educators and fieldwork sites. It is their hope that identifying exemplary sites and individuals will motivate fieldwork participants towards ideal practices and raise awareness and respect for this essential, and often overlooked, aspect of professional responsibility.

How do you fit within these criteria? How about your workplace? Are you “*Excellent*”?

Fieldwork Educator criteria include:

- AOTA and state association memberships
- Continuing education related to supervision, teaching, mentoring
- Positive evaluations from fieldwork students
- Ethical, evidence-based, occupation-centered practitioner
- Actively engaged in evaluation of effectiveness of own supervisory skills
- Contributions to OT education beyond the fieldwork site (i.e., committees or guest lectures at local college)

Fieldwork Site criteria include:

- 100% of staff has both AOTA and state association memberships
- Role as a fieldwork educator is included in job expectations and performance standards for advancement
- Use of the OT Practice Framework
- Positive collaboration with academic institutions, including both Level I and Level II placements
- Consistent positive evaluations from students
- Staff development in areas of teaching, assessment of learning and supervision
- Quality assurance monitoring on an aspect of fieldwork education

The Ohio Academic Fieldwork Coordinators Consortium values high quality fieldwork experiences and appreciates all that you do to support our students’ development as entry-level clinicians. In recognition, the Consortium plans to honor individuals and sites meeting the *Criteria for Excellence* with annual awards at OOTA conference. If you would like tips or guidance to help you or your site meet the criteria, contact the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator

at your local college or university. You can find a complete list of all criteria for the *fieldwork educator* at:

www.aota.org/Educate/EdRes/Fieldwork/Supervisor/41770/41772.aspx

and the *fieldwork site* at:

www.aota.org/Educate/EdRes/Fieldwork/