Fieldwork Performance

Performance Problems during Fieldwork

1. The fieldwork supervisor should notify the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator that the student is having difficulty and is in danger of failing the experience. This normally should occur no later than the mid-term evaluation time.

2. Through conversations with the supervisor and the student, the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator may assist in the identification and clarification of problems. Discussions are held on means by which the student can improve his/her performance. The supervisory relationship and the structure of the fieldwork experience are examined for problems that are causing difficulty.

3. Upon request of either the center or the student, the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator considers making a site visit to consult with the supervisor and the student.

4. The student is counseled about requirements for passing fieldwork courses or fieldwork units of courses with a credit (pass/fail). Those experiences that are not passed may or may not be repeated. (See SAHS Bulletin)

5. To pass a Level II fieldwork experience, a student must have a score of 3 or above in each of the three items in the Fundamentals Of Practice section of the Fieldwork Performance Evaluation for The Occupational Therapy Student (FWPE), along with an overall passing score (122 and above) on the entire FWPE.

Academic Regulations for Withdrawing From a Course

1. If the student experiences a hostile environment, unethical practice or any conditions that interfere with proper clinical education at any time during fieldwork placement, the student needs to inform the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator immediately. If the student’s concerns are validated, the student will be allowed to leave that facility and be placed at an alternate fieldwork site. The department will make every effort to place the student at a new site as soon as possible, but does not guarantee immediate placement.

2. If the student experiences difficulty during fieldwork, the supervisor will contact the fieldwork coordinator. During the first few weeks of the fieldwork, if the supervisor feels the student is not going to pass, the student is advised of this by the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and may be counseled to withdraw from that fieldwork course. The student must decide within 3 working days to withdraw from the fieldwork course or to continue in the experience.

3. If the student withdraws from a fieldwork course, the course must be repeated in its entirety. The department will make every effort to place the student at a new site as soon as possible, but does not guarantee immediate placement. The student may not be able to graduate as scheduled.

4. If indicated, the student is referred for counseling and it may be recommended that the student completes additional learning/competency activities prior to being assigned to another fieldwork. This is determined on an individual basis.

5. If the student decides to continue in the fieldwork experience, the final evaluation is scored upon receipt of the final fieldwork performance evaluation, and the earned grade is recorded on the transcript.
6. If the student decides to contest the fieldwork grade, the established procedures for contesting a grade must be followed (see SAHS bulletin). Pending the outcome of the appeal procedure an additional experience may or may not be scheduled for a student.

7. A student who experiences repeated problems or exhibits unprofessional behaviors during fieldwork may be dismissed from the program. Each student is only allowed to withdraw or fail from Level II fieldwork placements once, and he/she must complete the required two fieldwork placements in a maximum of 3 rotations. Should the student wish to contest such a decision, the student must follow the established procedures for contesting a grade (see SAHS bulletin).