

THE AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR FIELDWORK EDUCATOR COMPETENCY

Fieldwork education is a vital component in preparing students for entry-level occupational therapy practice. This voluntary self-assessment tool supports the development of skills necessary to be an effective fieldwork educator (FWE) whose role is to facilitate the progression from student to entry-level practitioner. This tool was designed to provide a structure for fieldwork educators to assess their own level of competence and to identify areas for further development and improvement of their skills. Competency as a fieldwork educator promotes the practitioner's pursuit of excellence in working with students and ensures the advancement of the profession.

PURPOSE

Both novice and experienced OTA and OT fieldwork educators can use this tool as a guide for self-reflection to target areas for professional growth. Proficiency as a fieldwork educator is an ongoing process of assessment, education, and practice. It is essential for fieldwork educators to continually work toward improving their proficiency in all competency areas as they supervise OTA/OT students. Use of this assessment tool is intended to be the foundation from which each fieldwork educator will create a professional growth plan with specific improvement strategies and measurable outcomes to advance development in this area of practice.

CONTENT

The self-assessment tool includes the following features:

- 1) Addresses fieldwork educator competencies in the areas of professional practice, education, supervision, evaluation, and administration.
- 2) Uses a numerical rating (Likert) scale from 1 (Low Proficiency) to 5 (High Proficiency) to aid in self-assessment.
- 3) Includes a "Comment Section" intended to be used by the fieldwork educator in identifying aspects of competency for self-improvement.
- 4) Results in a "Fieldwork Educator Professional Development Plan." Fieldwork educators can use the suggested format for recording a professional development plan of action. The suggested format or chart may be copied for additional space. Such a plan helps fieldwork educators meet the standards established for FWEs as stated in the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) Standards and Interpretive Guidelines (2006).
- 5) Explains terminology, which is based on the Practice Framework 2nd Edition.

WHO SHOULD USE THE TOOL

This self-assessment tool is designed to be used by OTA and OT fieldwork educators at all levels of expertise in supervising students. While the tool is primarily oriented toward OTA/OT practitioners who directly supervise OTA and/or OT Level II fieldwork, it can easily be applied to Level I fieldwork and to non-OT supervisors.

DIRECTIONS

Fieldwork educators should determine the relevance of each competency to the role of the OTA/OT in their setting. Some competency statements may not be applicable in their setting and/or in their state (refer to the appropriate OTA/OT role delineation documents). In addition, the “Self-Assessment Tool for Fieldwork Educator Competency” is to be used for professional development only. It is not intended to be used as a performance appraisal. However, the fieldwork educator may certainly include goals articulated in the “Fieldwork Educator Professional Development Plan” in their annual professional goals.

Self-Assessment Tool:

Circle the number that correlates with your level of competence for each item. The “Comments” section can be used to highlight strengths, areas that need improvement, etc.

Development Plan:

It is helpful to prioritize the competency areas that need improvement and to select only a few areas that can realistically be accomplished. Write goals for each of the selected areas and identify strategies to meet the goals at the same time as establishing a deadline for meeting the goals. OT practitioners are adept in assessing, planning, and implementing practical and meaningful continuous quality improvement plans. It is this attribute, plus a desire to support the growth of future practitioners, that motivates OTAs and OTs to seek methods for gaining and maintaining their competence as fieldwork educators. We hope this tool is helpful in guiding fieldwork educators on a journey of self-appraisal and professional development. It meets the immediate need of defining basic competencies of fieldwork educators. It is in this spirit that the "Self-Assessment Tool" was drafted and offered as a means for better serving the needs of individuals and the future of occupational therapy.

Originally developed in 1997 by the COE Fieldwork Issues Committee.

Revised in 2009 by the Commission on Education:

René Padilla, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, *Chairperson*

Andrea Billics, PhD, OTR/L

Judith Blum, MS, OTR/L

Paula Bohr, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Jennifer Coyne, COTA/L

Jyothi Gupta, PhD, OTR/L

Linda Musselman, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Linda Orr, MPA, OTR/L

Abbey Sipp, OTS

Patricia Stutz-Tanenbaum, MS, OTR

Neil Harvison, PhD, OTR/L (AOTA Liaison)

<p>B. EDUCATION COMPETENCIES</p>	<p>KEY DEFINITION STATEMENT: <i>The fieldwork educator facilitates the student’s development of professional clinical reasoning and its application to entry-level practice. The fieldwork educator assumes responsibility for ensuring her or his own competence as a fieldwork educator.</i></p>					
<p>The fieldwork educator:</p>	<p>CIRCLE ONE</p>					<p>COMMENTS</p>
	<p>Low Proficient</p>			<p>High Proficient</p>		
<p>1. Provides ongoing assessment of a student's individual learning needs based on review of academic curriculum design, OTA and OT roles, prior experiences, and current performance level.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>2. Collaboratively develops student and fieldwork learning contracts to support occupation-based fieldwork experience (develop outcome-based measurable learning objectives).</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>3. Sequences learning experiences to grade progression toward entry-level practice.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>4. Facilitates student-directed learning within the parameters of the fieldwork environment.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>5. Maximizes opportunities for learning by using planned and unplanned experiences within the fieldwork environment.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>6. Uses a variety of instructional strategies to facilitate the learning process (e.g., role modeling, co-intervention, videotaping, etc.).</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>7. Adapts approach to work effectively with all students, including those who have physical and/or psychosocial impairment(s).</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>8. Demonstrates sensitivity to student learning style to adapt teaching approach for diverse student populations.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>9. Guides student integration of therapeutic concepts and skills (e.g., facilitates discussions to elicit clinical/professional reasoning, convert practice situations into learning experiences, and/or to process personal feelings/values that interface with practice).</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>10. Reflects upon educator role as complimentary to OT practitioner role.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>11. Self-identifies and implements a Fieldwork Educator Professional Development Plan. (See page 8 for suggested plan.)</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>12. Identifies resources to promote student and fieldwork educator professional development (e.g., academic program, student and supervisor mentors, AOTA, Commission on Education, Education Special Interest Section, workshops, in-services, etc.).</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>13. Provides reference materials to promote student and fieldwork educator professional development and use of EBP (e.g., publications, texts, videos, internet, etc.).</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>14. Uses evidence-based research to guide student performance and learning for effective teaching strategies.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	

C. SUPERVISION COMPETENCIES	KEY DEFINITION STATEMENT: <i>The fieldwork educator facilitates student achievement of entry-level practice through a student-centered approach.</i>					COMMENTS
The fieldwork educator:	CIRCLE ONE					
	Low Proficient			High Proficient		
1. Uses current supervision models and theories to facilitation student performance and professional behavior	1	2	3	4	5	
2. Presents clear expectations of performance throughout the fieldwork experience, appropriate to entry level OT practice (e.g., student OTA/OT role delineation, Level I/II fieldwork, practice environment, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	
3. Anticipates and prepares student for challenging situations.	1	2	3	4	5	
4. Provides activities to challenge student's optimal performance.	1	2	3	4	5	
5. Provides the student with prompt, direct, specific, and constructive feedback throughout the fieldwork experience.	1	2	3	4	5	
6. Uses a progression of supervisory approaches throughout the student learning cycle (adapts the amount and type of supervision, changes approach to support student learning, challenges student at current level of performance) to facilitate student performance.	1	2	3	4	5	
7. Uses a variety of strategies to provide communication and feedback to promote student professional development (verbal, non-verbal, group, direct, indirect).	1	2	3	4	5	
8. Is aware of his or her own personal style of supervision and is able to adapt the approach in response to student performance.	1	2	3	4	5	
9. Initiates interaction to resolve conflict and to raise issues of concern.	1	2	3	4	5	
10. Elicits and responds to student's feedback and concerns.	1	2	3	4	5	
11. Collaborates with the student and academic fieldwork coordinator to identify and modify learning environments when student experiences difficulty.	1	2	3	4	5	
12. Models appropriate professional behaviors when interacting with students, clients, and peers.	1	2	3	4	5	
13. Consults with other FW educators and sites to develop creative learning experiences for the student.	1	2	3	4	5	
14. Uses innovation within own fieldwork setting to enhance the student learning experience during fieldwork.	1	2	3	4	5	

D. EVALUATION COMPETENCIES	KEY DEFINITION STATEMENT: <i>The fieldwork educator evaluates student performance to achieve entry-level practice in the fieldwork setting.</i>					
The fieldwork educator:	CIRCLE ONE Low Proficient High Proficient					COMMENTS
1. Reviews the evaluation tool and expected entry-level expectations (e.g., behavioral objectives, weekly objectives, etc.) with student prior to mid-term and final.	1	2	3	4	5	
2. Assesses student according to performance standards based on objective information (e.g., direct observation, discussion with student, review of student's documentation, observation by others, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	
3. Assesses student's performance based on appropriate OTA/OT entry-level roles of the fieldwork practice setting.	1	2	3	4	5	
4. Facilitates student self-reflection and self-assessment throughout the fieldwork and evaluation process.	1	2	3	4	5	
5. Uses an evaluation process to advise and guide the student regarding strengths and opportunities for growth based on site-specific objectives.	1	2	3	4	5	
6. Uses fieldwork evaluation tools to accurately measure student performance and provide feedback.	1	2	3	4	5	
7. Completes and distributes in a timely manner all evaluations regarding student performance, including but not limited to the midterm and final evaluation (e.g., AOTA Fieldwork Performance Evaluation, Fieldwork Experience Assessment Tool [FEAT], etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	
8. Guides the student in the use of the Fieldwork Performance Evaluation as a method of promoting continued professional growth and development.	1	2	3	4	5	
9. Documents student's fieldwork performance recognizing ethical and legal rights (e.g., due process, confidentiality, ADA, integrity).	1	2	3	4	5	

Self-Assessment Tool for Fieldwork Educator Competency

ADMINISTRATION COMPETENCIES	KEY DEFINITION STATEMENT: <i>The fieldwork educator develops and/or implements an organized fieldwork program in keeping with legal and professional standards and environmental factors (physical, social, and cultural).</i>					
The fieldwork educator:	CIRCLE ONE					COMMENTS
	Low Proficient			High Proficient		
1. Communicates and collaborates with academic programs to integrate the academic curriculum design during fieldwork.	1	2	3	4	5	
2. Implements a model FW program that supports the curriculum of the academic program.	1	2	3	4	5	
3. Seeks support from fieldwork site administration and staff to develop and implement the student fieldwork program.	1	2	3	4	5	
4. Designs and implements the fieldwork program in collaboration with the academic programs served and in accordance to ACOTE standards for Level I and Level II fieldwork (2008) (e.g., academic and fieldwork setting requirements, Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	
5. Ensures that the fieldwork program is sensitive to diversity and multi-cultural issues.	1	2	3	4	5	
6. Documents an organized, systematic fieldwork program (e.g., fieldwork manual, student expectations, weekly sequence of expectations, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	
7. Schedules formal and informal meetings with the student to guide the fieldwork experience.	1	2	3	4	5	
8. Collaborates with the student to develop student learning objectives.						
9. Documents behavioral objectives to achieve fieldwork objectives and learning experiences appropriate for entry-level practice.	1	2	3	4	5	
10. Is knowledgeable in legal and health care policies that directly influence FW.	1	2	3	4	5	
11. Defines essential functions and roles of a fieldwork student, in compliance with legal and accreditation standards (e.g., ADA, Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, Joint Commission, fieldwork agreement, reimbursement mechanism, state regulations, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	
12. Provides student work areas appropriate to fieldwork site (e.g., student safety, accessibility, supplies, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	
13. Provides a complete orientation for student to fieldwork site (e.g., policies, procedures, student expectations, and responsibilities, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	
14. Requires student compliance with the fieldwork site policies and procedures (HIPAA, OSHA regulations), mission, goals, philosophy, and safety standards.	1	2	3	4	5	
15. Submits required fieldwork documents to academic program in a timely manner to ensure current data is available (e.g., fieldwork evaluation, fieldwork agreements, fieldwork data form, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	
16. Conducts ongoing fieldwork program evaluations and monitors changes in the program with student and staff input (e.g., Student Evaluation of Fieldwork Experience, Self-Assessment Tool for Fieldwork Competencies, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	

1 AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION RESOURCE LIST

- 2 Atler, K. (2003). *Using the fieldwork performance forms: The complete guide*. Bethesda, MD:
3 American Occupational Therapy Association.
- 4 Atler, K. & Wimmer, R. (2003). *Online course—Using the Fieldwork Performance Evaluation*
5 *forms: An interactive approach*. Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy Association.
- 6 Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (2009). *Standards and Interpretive*
7 *Guidelines*. Downloaded June 8, 2009 from
8 <http://www.aota.org/Educate/Accredit/StandardsReview/guide/42369.aspx>
- 9 American Occupational Therapy Association (2009). *Occupational therapy fieldwork education:*
10 *Value and purpose*. Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy Association.
- 11 American Occupational Therapy Association (2009). *Specialized knowledge and skills of*
12 *occupational therapy educators of the future*. Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy
13 Association.
- 14 American Occupational Therapy Association (2008). *Occupational therapy practice framework:*
15 *Domain and process* (2nd edition). Bethesda, MD: Author.
- 16 American Occupational Therapy Association (2008) *Guidelines for supervision, roles, and*
17 *responsibilities during the delivery of occupational therapy services*. Bethesda, MD: Author.
- 18 American Occupational Therapy Association (2008) *Recommendations for occupational therapy*
19 *fieldwork experiences*. Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy Association.
- 20 American Occupational Therapy Association (2005). *Occupational therapy code of ethics*. Bethesda,
21 MD: Author
- 22 Costa, D. (2004). *Essential guide to occupational therapy fieldwork education: Resources for today's*
23 *educators and practitioners*. Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy Association.
- 24 Costa, D. (2007) *Clinical supervision in occupational therapy: A guide for fieldwork and practice*
25 Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy Association.
- 26 Moyers, P.A. (2007). *The guide to occupational therapy practice*. Bethesda, MD: American
27 Occupational Therapy Association.