

Howard University Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Program

Department of Occupational Therapy Fieldwork

The Howard University Occupational Therapy program provides fieldwork opportunities that are reflective of the program's curriculum design. These fieldwork opportunities include incorporation of various models, such as developmental, community-based, and medical models. Each of the placements provides experiences that facilitate the application of progressive problem solving and clinical reasoning. The clinical settings that are available to the students varies and includes both traditional and non-traditional settings.

The OTD program at Howard University has access to more than 300 student placement opportunities nationwide through various contracts. These contractual agreements have been made with a variety of settings including acute care, sub-acute care facilities, rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient settings, psychosocial day treatment centers, partial hospitalization sites, community mental health centers, state mental health facilities, school systems, child developmental centers, children's hospitals, and pediatric special needs programs. Within a number of these settings there are learning opportunities in specialized and emerging practice areas.

In preparation for fieldwork, students receive ongoing knowledge of the occupational therapy process as applied to various populations and diagnostic categories. They also benefit from opportunities to practice and develop clinical skills. In addition, students gain an understanding of research as it relates to evidence-based practice and the knowledge of ethics and professional behavior.

Students participate in Level I and Level II fieldwork experiences while in the program. The Level I experience consists of three one (2) credit fieldwork experiences (Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced) integrated with Clinical Decision Making activities and requirements. In Fieldwork Level I, students are exposed to onsite evaluations, documentation, and intervention strategies in various settings such as, hospitals, long-term care, schools, home health, hospice, homeless shelters, mental health facilities, community, and public health facilities. They are expected to apply beginning, intermediate, and advanced level clinical reasoning skills during client observations and clinical practice (see course descriptions).

Fieldwork Level II experiences take place during a 24-week timeframe. Students may complete 1 – 4 Level II Fieldwork experiences during the 24-week period.

