**Year 1 – Practicum 1**

**Occupational Therapy Practicum I   
Fieldwork Objectives**

The purpose of this fieldwork placement is for students to gain an understanding of the role of occupational therapy in Aotearoa/NZ, within a supervised practice environment. The focus of this placement is on introducing students to the notion of people as occupational beings and to the occupational therapy process - the CPPF*.* This is an opportunity for students to demonstrate that they have met the learning outcomes for this paper and the criteria outlined in the assessment booklet.

* **NB:** **Practicum 1 has an observational/assistantship focus.** It allows students to observe an occupational therapist in practice. Additionally students can be asked to assist the supervising therapist with specific tasks that are appropriate to the student’s level of knowledge and experience.

**Assessment and compulsory activities**

1. **There are two assessment points related to this paper:**
   1. **P1 Fieldwork Assessment**

The fieldwork educator or clinical educator will assess their student’s competence at the end of the two-week placement using the assessment booklet – Practicum 1. This involves reviewing students engagement with the written workbook, observing the student’s interactions with clients and colleagues as well as evaluating their professional attitude, knowledge and skills.

Guidelines have been provided for assisting students and fieldwork educators to identify learning activities that can demonstrate the student’s level of performance under each competency (Guidelines for demonstrating competence).

* 1. **Written Workbook**

**Students will engage with the workbook during placement, this will help guide their experience.**

**Students are required to submit a guided reflection through turnitin at AUT for this to be marked by AUT lecturers.**

1. **Fieldwork hours**

Students are expected to complete 80 fieldwork hours during Practicum 1 (8 hours for Labour Day will be credited). This also includes 4 hours of self-directed study time per week.

**First Year BHSc (OT) curriculum content**

Year One BHSc (OT) students will have completed six papers prior to commencing placement. Four of these papers are shared papers within the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences (Human Anatomy & Physiology I, Health & Environment OR Māori Health Development & Environment, Psychology and Lifespan, and Knowledge, Enquiry & Communication).

The remaining two papers are specific to occupational therapy:

1. **Personal and Environmental Factors in Occupation**

This paper examines the dynamic relationship between the occupation, personal factors and the environment.

1. **Experiencing Occupation**

This paper develops understanding of occupation through experience and reflection. The meaning and characteristics of a range of occupations will be explored.

***Student placement preparation***

Prior to placement students will complete placement preparation sessions as part of this paper. This will involve lectures and tutorials specifically focused on preparation for placement. Topics include:

* Introduction to the occupational therapy process.
* Theoretical approaches of occupational therapy practice.
* Clinical and non-clinical aspects of the occupational therapist’s role.
* Introduction to reflective practice (reflection / supervision) and learning styles.
* Professional practice skills and behaviours, including self-management, observational skills, verbal and written communication.
* Safe Moving and Handling techniques.
* Introduction to safe ethical practice.
* The relationship between learning and the Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand competencies for registration as an occupational therapist.
* Debrief following placement

**What to expect from a Year 1 student?**

Students on their first placement are primarily focused on becoming familiar with the dynamics of the fieldwork setting. Year 1 students tend to focus on applying academic knowledge without simultaneously considering environmental factors. This placement has primarily an observational / assistantship function. We expect students to be actively involved in their learning.

1. APPLYING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND VALUES
   * Use current theory and evidence to inform best practice.
   * Describe the skills required to enable successful participation in occupation within this setting.
   * Relate the core business of the service to the benefits for those attending.
2. PRACTISING APPROPRIATELY FOR BICULTURAL AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
   * Recognise the multiple realities and identities people bring to the practice context e.g. gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation, ability, life stage.
   * Identify personal significant cultural values, beliefs, attitudes and prejudices and understand their potential impact.
   * Identify own professional abilities and attitudes, strengths, and limitations, and how these affect performance and the service provided.
3. BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATING

* Articulate the role and function of an occupational therapist within the team.
* Describe the physical environment/resources provided for the service users.
* Use a range of communication skills.
* Assess the effectiveness of own communication.

1. PRACTISING IN A SAFE, LEGAL, ETHICAL AND CULTURALLY COMPETENT WAY

* Attend to safety of client/tangata whaiora, self and others.
* Respect privacy and maintain confidentiality.
* Adhere to relevant legislation, codes, service standards and professional guidelines used in this setting.
* Present concepts and information clearly using inclusive, unambiguous, gender-neutral language.

1. ENGAGING WITH AND BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR PROFESSION
   * Participate in regular supervision in a manner, which supports on-going development.
   * Demonstrate professional behaviour and presentation appropriate to the context.

Learning opportunities you might encourage could include:

* Observing and subsequently assisting with an initial assessment.
* Observing an assessment (such as COPM), and recording information and observations.
* Drafting a progress note with the fieldwork educator, (it is helpful to provide the student with a set format).
* Getting students to identify any issues clients may have with their ability to participate in occupations (e.g. identifying the personal and environmental factors underlying a client’s difficulty with dressing independently).
* Pre-formulating questions and interviewing colleagues about their role (e.g. physiotherapists, nurses, doctors, support workers, teachers, social workers etc.) and comparing and contrasting this to the role of an occupational therapist.
* Working with the questions / steps of the Canadian Practice Process Framework (Townsend & Polatajko, 2013) in the workbook and identifying how these apply in relation to a client.