



# Level I Fieldwork-Its Purpose and Form

<http://floteceducation.org/>

Have you thought about taking a fieldwork student, but been uncertain about making the 12 week commitment? Do you want to “try on” being a fieldwork educator, but wonder if your practice setting may not be right for a full-time student? If so, becoming a Level I fieldwork educator may be the “just right challenge” for you. Read on and then contact your local OT or OTA program, or any one of the members of FLOTEC for more information.

## **What is Level I fieldwork?**

Level I fieldwork is designed to enhance the didactic learning of OT and OTA students. The students are introduced to the fieldwork environment, its personnel and their duties. Students’ understanding of what will be expected during Level II fieldwork is made more real through this immersion into the practice of occupational therapy. Students are expected to actively participate in and

observe selected aspects of the occupational therapy practice in the setting to which they have been assigned. Level I fieldwork is not simply a time to sit and observe. Students will have specific tasks or assignments to complete in the fieldwork setting.

Each academic program determines the types of Level I experiences that are matched to the curriculum and that will compliment students’ didactic instruction. Programs may design experiences in traditional medical model practices, in community-based non-medical settings, or with programs serving specific age groups or persons with specific diagnostic categories, or in well populations. Level I fieldwork schedules vary greatly between programs. Options may include, but are not limited to part-day or full-day/week for number of weeks, 1 full week/semester, or days in alternating weeks. In some cases Level I students may be supervised by non-occupational therapy professionals. When this is determined to be appropriate, the supervisor must have a good understanding of occupational therapy and be able to help the students meet the goals of the Level I experi-

ence.

## **How is Level I arranged?**

The Academic Fieldwork Coordinator from the OT or OTA program identifies potential fieldwork sites within the community, discusses fieldwork needs with site personnel, collaborates with personnel regarding how the needs can be met by the site, and establishes a contract between the school and the interested site.

The academic program provides the fieldwork educators with student learning objectives for the fieldwork experience, a listing of specific activities the student is expected to complete, and the documentation needed for evaluation of the students’ performance.

If you would like more information about Level I Fieldwork, please contact any of the members of FLOTEC and/or refer to the COE Guidelines for an Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Experience – Level I found at <http://www.aota.org/Educate/EdRes/Fieldwork/LevelI/38248.aspx>

Respectfully submitted by Robin Richmond OT/L, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Polk State College, OTA Program. On behalf of FLOTEC .

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## **The Central Florida Aging in Place Chapter**

is an organization of healthcare professionals, senior service providers, home builders and designers. Our mission is to support the individuals’ desire to safely remain in their living environment of choice, regardless of age or physical ability.

We promote education, support advocacy and develop resource alliances by providing a foundation for community accessibility to maximize independent living.

We have a working relationship the Homebuilders Association of Metro Orlando, Orlando Health, Rebuilding Together Orlando and our local Agency on Aging, the Senior Resource Alliance.

Annually we hold an educational event during **National Aging in Place Week** to build community relationships that develop aging in place ideas. This year the event will take place on October 13, 2010 and be hosted by The Homebuilders Association in Maitland, FL. If interested in attending, or if you would like to learn more about the Chapter contact Carolyn Sithong, OT, CAPS at [csithong@homeforlifedesign.com](mailto:csithong@homeforlifedesign.com) or visit [www.ageinplace.org](http://www.ageinplace.org) to learn more about National Aging in Place Week 2010.

The theme for this year is “Aging Well” and will feature Lisa Fagan and Patricia Cheney, occupational therapists nationally known for their professional contribution to environmental modification practices. In addition to our fellow colleagues, their will be representatives from Orlando Health one of Florida’s largest hospital systems, Rebuilding Together, Grand Care technology systems, and Baker Barrios, a national architect firm specializing in healthcare design. Together these professionals will educate community members and professionals on the importance of collaboration to advance safe and accessible communities and environments for our aging population. If interested in attending, or if you would like to learn more about the Chapter contact Carolyn Sithong, OT, CAPS