

Virginia Western Community College**OCT 130
Psychosocial Fieldwork Level IA****Prerequisites: OTA Program placement**

Course Description: Enriches coursework through observation and participation in therapeutic activities. Applies academic knowledge to understand clients' behavioral and mental health needs through methods such as simulated environments, standardized patients, and/or faculty-led site visits. Develops professional skills and determine how behavioral, psychological, and social factors influence occupational engagement.

Semester Credits: 1

Lab Hours: 2 per week

Required Materials

Textbooks:

1. Meyer, C. & Sasse, C.S. (2025). *Early's mental health concepts and techniques for occupational therapy* (6th ed.). Wolters Kluwer.
2. Napier-Tibere, B., & Haroun, L. (2025). *Occupational therapy fieldwork survival guide: A student planner* (3rd ed.). AOTA Press.
3. The American Occupational Therapy Association. (2020). *Occupational therapy practice framework: Domain & process*. (4th ed.). AOTA Press.

Course Objectives

1. Provide structured opportunities for student to observe and participate in therapeutic activities that address the behavioral and mental health needs of clients. (SLO #1, 2, 3, 5)
2. Facilitate exploration of how behavioral, psychological, and social factors influence occupational engagement through simulated environments and faculty-led site visits (SLO #1, 2, 7)
3. Support development of professional communication and collaboration skills necessary for working with occupational therapists and interdisciplinary teams. (SLO #3, 7)
4. Introduce instructional strategies that promote effective client and caregiver education using principles of teaching-learning and health literacy. (SLO #4, 6)
5. Provide guidance in designing occupation-based activities and clinical training experiences for individuals and groups across diverse settings. (SLO #5, 6)

Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student will:

1. Demonstrate therapeutic use of self, including one's personality, insights, perceptions, and judgments, as part of the therapeutic process in both individual and group interaction. (ACOTE B.3.1.)
2. Demonstrate the principles of the teaching-learning process using educational methods and health literacy education approaches. (ACOTE B.3.19.)
3. Design activities and clinical training for persons, groups, and populations. (ACOTE B.3.19.)
4. Instruct and train the client, caregiver, family, significant others, and communities at the level of the audience. (ACOTE B.3.19.)
5. Identify and communicate to the occupational therapist the need to design community programs to support occupational performance for persons, groups, or populations. (ACOTE B.3.20.)

Major Topics to be Included

- Behavioral and mental health needs across the lifespan
- Therapeutic relationships
- Therapeutic techniques for working with clients with psychosocial dysfunction
- Professional skills useful when working with clients with psychosocial dysfunction
- Occupation-based interventions

[ADA Statement](#) (PDF)

[Title IX Statement](#) (PDF)