



## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide the student with a five week occupational therapy fieldwork placement. The goals of this experience are to provide the student with the opportunity to practice and refine the skills of the Occupational Therapist Assistant and provide the opportunity to work more independently in the role of an OTA. The student will consolidate prior learning in an occupational therapy setting, under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist.

## II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:

In general, this course addresses Learning Outcomes of the Program Standards in: communication skills (1, 2, 3, 6, 8P, 8O, 9O, 10O, 11O, 12O), interpersonal skills (1, 2, 3, 7, 9O, 10O, 11O, 12O), safety (1, 2, 4, 8P, 8O, 9O, 10O, 11O, 12O), professional competence (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8P, 8O, 9O, 10O, 11O, 12O), documentation skills (1, 4, 5, 6), and application skills (1, 2, 4, 6, 8P, 8O, 9O, 10O, 11O, 12O). It addresses all of the Generic Skills Learning.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

### 1. Initiate and demonstrate a self-directed approach to ongoing learning experiences and the development of lifelong learning skills.

#### Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Develop and implement an effective learning contract.
- Selection of appropriate learning goals and objectives based on individual learning needs and opportunities of the clinical placement
- Specification of available learning resources and learning strategies applicable to the student's learning style (based on the results of the student's individual "Learning Style Questionnaire" – in professional portfolio)

### 2. Demonstrate the ability to work within the role of an OTA in an Occupational Therapy setting.

#### Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Completion of clerical and administration duties as requested by the OT or administrative staff (i.e. telephone skills, filing)
- Completion of maintenance duties as indicated by the OT (i.e. cleaning equipment, preparing treatment areas, inventory and ordering of supplies)
- Contributes to the functional assessment and administration of standardized tests
- Participates in the intervention of the client, based on treatment recommendations provided by the OT (i.e. modalities, functional activities, ADL training)
- Ensures behaviours and skills are within the scope of practice of an OTA/PTA student

**3. Demonstrate skill in assisting and reporting appropriately to contribute to the Occupational Therapist's assessments in order to determine a client's need for treatment.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Assists in gathering of referral information
- Contributes to the functional assessment and administration of standardized tests
- Participates in the intervention of the client, based on treatment recommendations provided by the OT
- Listens attentively and actively
- Demonstrates effective clinical observation skills
- Assists in recording and reporting of assessment results as indicated by the OT

**4. Demonstrate the appropriate selection and implementation of activity programs, for a variety of individuals and groups with physical and psychosocial conditions, as prescribed by an Occupational Therapist.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Reflects on theory based knowledge gained through curriculum when selecting and implementing activity programs
- Ensures contraindications, precautions and side effects are considered when selecting and implementing activity programs
- Demonstrates the ability to perform an activity analysis within a vocational setting (where applicable)
- Under the supervision of the OT, applies knowledge regarding grading of an exercise or an activity
- Demonstrates the ability to conduct/lead a group session (where applicable)

**5. Demonstrate observations skills of monitoring treatment plans outlined by an Occupational Therapist and identify, report and record when changes/modifications may be appropriate.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Becomes familiar with report formats including: initial assessment, progress notes and discharge summary
- Discusses the role of the OTA regarding documentation/reporting
- Applies clinical observation skills, monitor and report any changes in a client's functional performance/status
- Effectively communicates, both verbally and through documentation, any observations regarding the client's functional performance

**6. Demonstrate safe and effective application and fabrication of assistive devices, splints and orthotics as prescribed by an Occupational Therapist.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Able to effectively selection, education and training clients in the use of assistive devices and adaptive equipment
- Assists the OT in the fabrication of splints and/or orthotics
- Monitors the clients compliance and use of splint and/or orthotics, as well as comfort issues
- Ensures contraindications, precautions and side effects are considered

**7. Implement ADL programs and established strategies by the Occupational Therapist for patients with various problems.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Participates in the ADL Assessment
- Demonstrates ability to provide ADL training
- Demonstrates knowledge and application of remedial techniques and compensatory techniques for functional ADL tasks
- Demonstrates knowledge of assistive devices to assist with functional ADL tasks

**8. Identify and change barriers to a comfortable environment for clients for the purpose of enhancing a client's ability to be involved in program of activities.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Demonstrates effective observational skills of the client's behaviours, changes and responses to treatment
- Demonstrates the ability to modify the environment and provide appropriate assistive devices to optimize function
- Demonstrates the ability to modify the activity to enhance the treatment session
- Ensures client positioning to ensure comfort and function
- Demonstrates the ability to perform basic modifications to wheelchairs to ensure optimum comfort

**9. Demonstrate skill in the application of safety precautions regarding the client and self during therapeutic activities, mobility and positioning procedures.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Follows health and safety regulations of the clinical facility and is aware of emergency procedures (i.e., isolation precautions, code red)
- Ensures proper body mechanics of self and the client at all times
- Keeps working area safe and clean
- Recognizes changes in client's status and notifies appropriate medical staff
- Demonstrates awareness of precautions, contraindications and side effects when providing interventions
- Demonstrates safe handling techniques during positioning and transferring of clients

**10. Demonstrate effective time management skills and problem-solving skills.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Demonstrates punctuality (for work, meetings, treatment sessions)
- Demonstrates initiative and self direction
- Completes an assignment or project as requested by the OT, i.e. poster board, information package, presentation
- Ensures that tasks on completed task in an effective and timely manner
- Begins to apply clinical reasoning skills and problem solving strategies

**11. Contribute and participate in team meetings both within the department and the agency when appropriate.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Demonstrates the ability to establish rapport with other members of the health care team.
- Initiates conversations with other members of the health care team
- Listens attentively and actively to others during team meetings
- Uses appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication during team meetings (ensuring that message sent is consistent with the intended message)

**12. Demonstrate appropriate professional and ethical behaviour while participating in both direct and indirect client care activities.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Ensures that others (clients and staff) are treated with respect and dignity
- Maintains behaviours consistent with the policies and procedures of the clinical setting (dress code, punctuality, absences)
- Maintains confidentiality
- Manages conflict and accepts feedback in a constructive manner

**13. Demonstrate appropriate communication/listening skills with client/staff, professional personnel and groups.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Use appropriate communication skills that support therapeutic relationships
- Use professional terminology when communicating verbally
- Demonstrates awareness of non-verbal communication, such as body language, and ensures professionalism at all times
- Interprets non-verbal communication of clients and responds appropriately
- Modifies communication style to meet the individual needs of the client
- Uses effective listening skills and follows through with information obtained
- Asks for clarification when necessary, to ensure accuracy and understanding of information

**III. TOPICS:**

1. Role of the OTA/PTA-professional behaviours, time management and communication
2. Clinical observations and reporting
3. Selection and implementation of therapeutic activities for individuals and groups
4. Assistive devices, splints and orthotics
5. ADL assessments and training
6. Modifications to intervention plans
7. Safety issues during rehabilitation

**IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:**

*All previous materials used during program of study to date.  
Alternate resources may be assigned by the supervising therapist.*

**V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:**

Will be based on successful completion of the PT placement and attendance of in class lectures:

**Placement Evaluation** (S/U)  
**Clinical Attendance** (187.5 hours - mandatory)  
**Log Book** (S/U)

The following semester grades will be assigned to students:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

**Note:** For such reasons as program certification or program articulation, certain courses require minimums of greater than 50% and/or have mandatory components to achieve a passing grade.

It is also important to note, that the minimum overall GPA required in order to graduate from a Sault College program remains 2.0.

**NOTE: Mid Term grades are provided in theory classes and clinical/field placement experiences. Students are notified that the midterm grade is an interim grade and is subject to change.**

**VI. SPECIAL NOTES:**

Attendance:

Sault College is committed to student success. There is a direct correlation between academic performance and class attendance; therefore, for the benefit of all its constituents, all students are encouraged to attend all of their scheduled learning and evaluation sessions. This implies arriving on time and remaining for the duration of the scheduled session. *It is the departmental policy that once the classroom door has been closed, the learning process has begun. Late arrivers will not be guaranteed admission to the room.*

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

**VII. COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDUM:**

The provisions contained in the addendum located on the portal form part of this course outline.