

The Muskingum University Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) Program curriculum design aligns each of the Level I fieldwork experiences with the didactic courses of the same content area. For example, the Mental Health Level I fieldwork is offered along with the Occupational Performance in Mental Health lecture and lab during Spring 2 of the first year. The alignment also occurs for Pediatrics, Adults, and Elders Level I courses. This structure promotes the students' opportunities to apply their newly gained knowledge to the fieldwork setting.

Based on Knowles' Adult Learning Theory, the theoretical foundation of the MOT program, the curriculum sequence allows students to learn experientially through fieldwork placements relevant to their education and professional growth. The Academic Fieldwork Coordinator (AFWC) collaborates with the faculty members teaching Mental Health, Pediatrics, Adult, and Elders courses to reinforce the ties between didactic and fieldwork education.

Level I fieldwork includes community-based and nontraditional practice settings with faculty-led site visits. The curricular threads of the MOT program are evident in these fieldwork courses. The focus of fieldwork experiences is to build on the students' established professional skills and knowledge, facilitating their understanding and application of assessment selection and administration, intervention planning, and consultation services. The interventions provided in these settings incorporate an occupational performance focus while giving the students occupation-based learning opportunities. The students' direct and indirect interventions also serve the community-based facilities through holistic and inclusive education and programming.

Fieldwork experiences employ a learner-centered pedagogy that requires high levels of critical thinking and clinical reasoning, beginning with needs analyses and culminating with professional presentations, recommendations, and interventions.

The Level II fieldwork courses allow for the practical application of the learners' didactic education. The fieldwork experiences reflect the MOT program's vision, mission, and philosophy. Program objectives serve as guides for fieldwork course learning objectives, while the presence of the curricular threads strengthens fieldwork education and provides consistency for students' learning.