

Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Community Partnerships

Partnering with the community to help people of all ages maximize their performance, participation, and well-being.

Participation in everyday activities is an important part of human health and well-being. Performing daily routines can be challenging when people experience mental or physical illness, injury, or disability. Occupational therapists help people of all ages and abilities participate more fully in self-care, work, and leisure activities. Lewis University's Occupational Therapy Program believes that by partnering with community organizations, we can positively impact the health and well-being of local residents.

Meeting the community's needs

Our diverse local community has unique and varied needs. Our Level I Fieldwork program pairs expert Lewis University Occupational Therapy (OT) Faculty with community organizations that focus on the performance, participation, and well-being of their clients. Each participating organization is assigned an OT Faculty Member who works alongside OT graduate students to develop innovative and sustainable programs designed to meet the specific needs of the organization. Occupational therapy interventions are theory-driven, evidence-based, and responsive to the needs of community organizations and their clients.

Benefits for Community Organizations

- Occupational therapy services provided by Lewis OT Faculty
- Programming that is responsive to each organization's unique needs
- Interventions that are designed using theory and research evidence to maximize benefits for clients
- Programming that supplements current services and provides additional support for clients
- Collaborative relationship between OT Staff, students, and organizations that is infused with a spirit of service and guided by Lewis University's LaSallian mission of Knowledge, Fidelity, Wisdom, Justice, and Association

Benefits for graduate students in Lewis University's OT Program

- Active engagement in non-traditional, emerging, or community-based practice areas
- Increased knowledge and understanding of other professions, community resources, liability issues, and the varied roles of the occupational therapist providing services on a contractual basis
- Opportunities to analyze occupational performance with diverse client groups
- Application of theory and evidence in occupational therapy practice
- Participation in client-centered services delivered by practicing Lewis OT Faculty Members.

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