



The following resource was created by faculty to support Fieldwork Educators.

## Managing the Exceptional Student

Managing exceptional students, including those who exceed expectations and those who do not meet expectations, require special attention to maximize their learning experiences.

### Students Who EXCEED Expectations

- Collaborate with the student and discuss how they might like to be challenged. The student, likely, has encountered this in prior educational endeavors and can take the lead in identifying strategies. Ask the student to identify specific areas for further growth (e.g. in-depth intervention strategies for the client with a brain injury, process improvement in the OT department, development of a new group intervention, research of new assessments that the department can use).
- Partner with the student to develop a written plan with specific goals and timelines for completion, giving the student the lead.
- Contact the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator (AFWC) to collaborate.

### Students Who DO NOT MEET Expectations

- Call the AFWC as to collaborate, as soon as concerns are noticed – DO NOT WAIT. The earlier we can act on this, the better. Likely, we will develop a Learning Contract with very specific weekly goals and evaluate the student's performance weekly. Remember that many students blossom in the last 2-3 weeks and we need to give them time and direction to do so early during the fieldwork experience.
  - Examples:
    - In 1 week, student will extract relevant information for a chart review in <10 minutes.
    - Student will arrive in sufficient time to be prepared to begin work at 7:30am 5 out of 5 days in the next week.
    - Student will initiate a 10-15 minute 'feedback session' with the supervisor at the end of each day in the next two weeks and share self-evaluation of performance with Fieldwork Educator, requesting immediate feedback for incorporation into subsequent daily sessions.
- Upgrade expectations weekly and formally document expectations and progress.
- Assess goal completion, identifying facilitators and barriers to success that the student can generalize in future weeks of fieldwork.
- Contact AFWC weekly to collaborate on student's progress.