

Making the Most of Your Job Shadow Experience

Before you make a visit – Be sure to call to make an appointment to meet the OTA and ask what their best available times are...Many practitioners love to have students shadow, but their first responsibility is to their clients. Tell them who you are and the purpose of the visit; ask if a tour of the facility or department could be arranged and how you should dress. Research what the field is; go to www.aota.org for more information. Prepare any questions you may have. Plan your trip so that you arrive on time!



When you visit, you may want to ask. . .

- ▶ How do you describe occupational therapy to others?
- ▶ What do you like best about your work?
- ▶ What personal qualities are important for an OT practitioner to have?
- ▶ What types of clients do you work with?
- ▶ What kinds of activities do you use in your practice?
- ▶ Can you share a story about a memorable client that benefited from OT?



When watching the OT practitioner work, take note of. . .



- ▶ . . . how the therapist/assistant interacts with the client.
- ▶ . . . the types of goals, problems or challenges being addressed.
- ▶ . . . how the client's interests, needs and strengths are included.
- ▶ . . . the way activities are used to help the client meet goals.
- ▶ . . . how the OT/A makes changes to meet the client's needs.
- ▶ . . . the manner in which safety and respect are ensured.

Be sure to thank the occupational therapist/assistant and other staff for their time and hospitality!

Job Shadow Information

What is job shadowing?

Making a decision about a career is a difficult one. Visiting a facility's Occupational Therapy Department is one way of learning about the field you are considering. Before you visit, there are a few things you should know. Your job shadow should be at least two hours in length; confirm with the site prior to your visit how long they can accommodate your visit. The length can vary depending on client availability, site requirements, your/therapist schedule or your area of interest.

How should I dress?

Facilities require professional attire for individuals interacting with clients. The facilities require that you do not wear jeans, shorts, or short skirts/blouses. Dress conservatively and look professional. Also, wear comfortable, closed toed shoes since you may be standing or doing some walking.

What about confidentiality?

Part of the responsibility of health care workers is to keep what they see in the facility confidential. That means that you don't share client names and details of their health status to your friends or family. Individual job shadow sites may have additional procedures that you may need to follow

What sites may I visit?

You may visit any of the sites listed on the back or locate a site of your choice that provides OT services.

How do I schedule a visit?

Call the site contact person to make the job shadow arrangements. Or you may wish to contact a facility in your area and ask for the OT Department to see if a job shadow can be arranged.

Verification of the job shadow

The job shadow verification form must be completed at the time of the visit and returned to the college.

How can I get more information?

If you have any questions, please contact a Western Student Services Advisor by phone, email or in writing. The toll-free number is 1-800-322-9982.

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petersons@westerntc.edu

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Western Technical College
Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

Suggested Job Shadow Sites

City	Facility Name	Contact Name	Telephone
Arcadia	Franciscan Skemp Healthcare – Arcadia	Mary Trim, OTR	(608) 323-3341
Black River Falls	Black River Falls Memorial Hospital	Nicole Schweitzer, OTR	(715) 284-1330
Blair Fountain City	Grandview Nursing Home St. Michael’s Nursing Home	Katie Parrish, COTA	(608) 526-9888 Achieve Therapy
Hillsboro	St. Joseph's Community Health Services	Cory Frederick, OTR	(608) 489-2211
La Crosse	Barge and Barge Chiropractic	Kay Conzemizus, OTR	(608) 788-7118
La Crosse	Bethany Riverside	Amy Evanstad, OTR	(608) 775-8200
La Crosse	Franciscan Skemp Healthcare	Barb Blank, OTR	(608) 791-9768
La Crosse	Gundersen Lutheran – volunteer hours only which would transfer	Carla Korish *	(608) 775-3294
La Crosse	Hillview Health Care Center	Holly Knuth, OTR	(608) 789-4800
La Crosse	St. Joseph’s Rehab Center	Mary Jo Griffin, COTA	(608) 788-9840
Mauston	Mile Bluff Medical Center	Tracy Anderson, OTR	(608) 847-6161
Sparta	Innovations Rehab ★ Rolling Hills Nursing Home ★ Morrow Home ★ Outpatient Services	Patti Abbott	(608) 269-0555
Tomah	Tomah Memorial Hospital	LuAnn Maternski, OTR	(608) 374-0327
Viroqua	Vernon Memorial Hospital	Janelle Boyer, OTR	(608) 637-4385
West Salem	Mulder’s Nursing Home	Kathy Gerstonberger, OTR	(608) 786-2274
Whitehall	Trempealeau County Health Care Center	Paula Hentges, OTR	(715) 538-4312 Ext. 2231
Whitehall	Tri County Memorial Hospital	Pamela Weltzien, OTR	(715) 538-4361
Winona, MN	Winona Health	Lindsey Henderson, OTR	(507) 457-4393

* Volunteer participants at Gundersen Lutheran must attend a formal orientation first.

Western Technical College

Health and Public Safety Division

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Job Shadow Verification Form

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for allowing this individual to observe the Occupational Therapy department for a job shadow. This experience fulfills the required prerequisite to enter into the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Western Wisconsin Technical College. This direct experience gives the individual a “feel” for the profession, assists with student success and provides a clinical connection to academic learning by relating to the observations to what is being described in the classroom setting. Please complete the following verification at the end of the job shadow experience which should be at least two hours in length. The individual observing will be responsible for submitting it to the college.

Applicant’s name: (please print) _____
This individual has spent _____ hours in a job shadow experience on (date) _____
in the Occupational Therapy Department at (facility name) _____

The individual observed the following treatment techniques/intervention:

Signed: _____ Title: _____

Thank you for your support of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Western Technical College.

Sincerely,

Christine R. Krueger

Christine R Krueger, MASL, OTR
Program Head – OTA Program

Applicant please return to:

Admissions Office - Welcome Center
Western Technical College
400 Seventh St. North
P.O. Box C-0908
La Crosse, WI 54602-0908