Dear Professionals,

I am the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Shawnee Community College. We are asking the students to individually obtain job shadowing sites to observe a minimum of two different practice settings as part of their clinical experience prior to beginning their courses for the program, which begins this August. The student must spend a minimum of 4 hours shadowing per setting. They are permitted to observe at the same facility if multiple settings are offered. The students are expected to behave professionally and follow any rules implemented by the facility and the clinical supervisor. If there are any issues with the student or if they need to be dismissed, please contact me immediately as this behavior will not be tolerated within our program. The students have a goal to observe professionals in multiple settings and their capacity to work with clinical application and reasoning, as well as learning professional behaviors such as client interaction, communication, motivation, empathy, professionalism, and timeliness which might lead them to become skilled clinicians. The students are responsible to secure these placements independently. This requires them to utilize skills which they will need when inquiring about job placement in the future and to initiate patient care.

We strive to produce the best occupational therapy assistants possible and feel observing the areas occupational therapy practitioners in a variety of professional settings can aid in ensuring they are learning these behaviors on a multitude of levels. We would like to offer a variety of clinical experiences for the students to ensure great clinical backgrounds. Your ongoing assistance and support are greatly appreciated by our program and students. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I am available by text or phone call at 618.499.7837, or by email at rachaelt@shawneecc.edu.

Thank you,

Rachael E. Trotter, COTA/L

OTA Program Academic Fieldwork Coordinator

Shawnee Community College

