Course Description

Focuses on the theory and application of occupational therapy in the evaluation and treatment of physical dysfunction. Includes a survey of conditions which cause physical disability as well as the role of the occupational therapy assistant in assessment, planning and implementation of treatment programs. Lecture 3 hours. Laboratory 3 hours. Total 6 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to be able to effectively evaluate and provide client-centered occupational therapy interventions to adult individuals and groups with a variety of conditions with associated physical dysfunction.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Prerequisite: Completion of OTA program semesters 1-3 coursework. Instructor permission.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- Understand the theoretical underpinnings and apply occupational therapy evaluative and treatment approaches when working with individuals and groups with physical and/or cognitive dysfunction.
- Effectively apply the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (OTPF) to help in gathering and sharing data in order to evaluate adult clients’ occupational performance capabilities. (2012 ACOTE standard B.4.4)
- Articulate the role of the occupational therapy assistant and the occupational therapist in screenings and evaluations and demonstrate an understanding of the significance of a collaborative supervisory process when working with adult clientele with physical dysfunction. (2012 ACOTE standard B.4.5)
- Understand the multidisciplinary approach and be able to identify when to recommend to the occupational therapist the need to refer clients for additional evaluations. (2012 ACOTE standard B.4.9)
- Effectively and efficiently document occupational therapy services to ensure accountability and justification of provided services and to meet the reimbursement standards set forth by the facility, the local, the state, the federal, and the involved reimbursement agencies. (2012 ACOTE standard B.4.10)
- Participate in the development of occupation-based, client-centered treatment plans for individuals with physical dysfunction taking into account cultural relevance, current evidence and practice trends. (2012 ACOTE standard B.5.1)
- Effectively select and provide occupational therapy interventions to enhance the overall occupational performance in areas of occupation, role participation, and health and wellness of individuals with physical disabilities. (2012 ACOTE standard B.5.2)
- Provide appropriate interventions while using occupation-based interventions, purposeful activities, and preparatory methods, including therapeutic exercises, in order to enhance the physical functioning and the overall health of clients being served. (2012 ACOTE standard B.5.3)
- Provide training in self-care, self-management, health management and maintenance, home management, and community and work integration with clients with physical dysfunction. (2012 ACOTE standard B.5.5)
- Understand when and how to best provide development, remediation, and compensation during the intervention process to those individuals with physical, mental, cognitive, perceptual,
neuromuscular, behavioral, and/or sensory deficits.  

- Implement occupational therapy interventions to remediate or compensate for cognitive deficits that impact occupational and role performance.  
  
- Provide fabrication, application, fitting and training of orthotic devices and splints used with adults with physical dysfunction to enhance occupational participation.  

- Perform and effectively train individuals in functional mobility techniques, including: wheelchair management, ambulatory devices, and tub/shower transfers, bed transfers, car transfers, toilet transfers, and couch transfers. Students will be able to perform hoyer lift, transfer board, squat-pivot, and stand-pivot transfers of clients with varying levels of dependence and diagnoses.  

- Provide training in techniques to increase overall independence in community mobility, including accessing public transportation, community access opportunities, and driving rehabilitation.  

- Enhance feeding and eating performance in adults with physical dysfunction by being familiar with precautions and using adaptive techniques and devices all while accounting for client and contextual factors influencing treatment.  

- Understand the use of a variety of superficial thermal and mechanical modalities as preparatory methods to help in achieving goals while considering contraindications and precautions related to the client and the used treatment.  

- Understand and apply the basic neuro-handling skills when working with the neurological population to enhance occupational participation.  

- Develop and incorporate home and community programming to support the occupational performance of clients’ with physical dysfunction to be able to participate in relevant contexts.  

- Understand appropriate timing of when and how to best facilitate discharge planning that is focused on the needs of the clients and their support system taking into consideration discharge environment and any needed adaptations, available resources, referrals, and home and community programming.  

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**Major Topics to be Included**

- Demonstrate an awareness of and application of occupational therapy interventions that are client-centered, culturally relevant, evidence-based, and current.
- Role of OTA when working with individuals with physical dysfunction and cognitive dysfunction.
- Use of occupation-based, purposeful activities, and preparatory methods to enhance occupational performance and participation of individuals with adult physical dysfunction.
- Theories and their application of theories and the OTPF as related to providing occupational therapy services to individuals with physical dysfunction.
- Occupational therapy process including evaluation, intervention application, and discharge planning.
- Effective and efficient documentation of occupational therapy services.
- Techniques to enhance occupational performance with individuals with physical dysfunction to include: ADLs, IADLs, functional mobility, community mobility, and other areas of occupation.