Indiana State University
College of Health and Human Services
Department of Applied Medicine and Rehabilitation
M.S. Occupational Therapy

OT Program Themes

Inter-professional Collaboration: According to research, collaboration with others strengthens the quality of our work. At Indiana State University, occupational therapy students will have the opportunity to learn foundational skills with other professional students. This allows for a common language as well as a common experience on which to build future relationships and course work. The power of occupation as an intervention either as a means or an end will be part of these collaborative processes. Throughout the curriculum the student will collaborate with other professional student through the engagement of case studies and research projects.

Excellence in Practice: We view Excellence in Practice a process. We must first instill the important of inquiry, the student must possess the skills and knowledge to search for and understand evidence. Then by applying critical reasoning skills determine the level of relevance and then determine how this knowledge is to be applied. The client’s occupational profile and the evidence force the student to think holistically when developing innovative occupation-based and client-centered interventions. Finally, the student must consider their skills and the capacity of the environment to carry out interventions. This process prepares students for practice in diverse settings including the rural and underserved population.

Professional Responsibility: Commitment to service is a prevalent theme throughout the University, College, and Department. The Occupational Therapy Program views professional service as a means to engage the community and while doing so experience learning in the authentic environment (service learning). Professional responsibility includes being responsible for self by developing professional and healthy behaviors; becoming advocates for those in need of services and for the profession; developing leadership skills; and participating in the professional as well as the geographic community. Relationship of Curricular Themes to the Indiana State University OT Mission Statement

The mission of the Occupational Therapy program is to provide competent health care providers who possess basic skills as a health care provider, consultant, educator, manager, researcher, and advocate for the profession and the consumer. In addition the program seeks to improve patient access and quality care for rural and underserved populations through interprofessional education.

Engagement in Interprofessional Collaboration provides the student not only with a common foundational knowledge but also with the skills needed for successful interaction in the diverse therapeutic environment. The breadth of Excellence in Practice includes the many roles that the future practitioner may experience while planning innovative interventions. Professional Responsibility addresses the demeanor / attitude expressed by being aware of the needs of the community and advocating for those in need of services. Relationship of Curricular Themes to the Philosophy of the Profession Meyers, Dunton, Hall, Tracy, and Barton all came from diverse professions to embrace
occupation as an intervention. Their impact on the profession demonstrates the power of interprofessional collaboration. Embracing collaboration with other professions strengthens the profession by educating others about the need for occupation-based interventions. The need to individualize intervention based on the individual's interests and natural abilities was expressed by Meyer's in The Philosophy of the Profession as a key element in developing meaningful occupation (1921). The curricular theme excellence in practice includes planning intervention decisions based on the occupational profile. We view every intervention as innovative due to the complex interaction between the occupational profile, client factors, and various therapeutic environments. The "birth" of the profession came out of the intrinsic need of our interprofessional founders to influence the environment. The curricular theme professional responsibility encourages future practitioners to be aware of and develop habits that will leave a positive impact in the therapeutic environment where they serve. Curriculum Design Scope

The breadth and depth of the program is based on AOTA's Centennial Vision and the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: Domain & Process (2nd ed). The Centennial Vision described future practice by placing occupational therapy in a variety of "settings, populations, diagnoses, specialties, and concerns -- with issues and needs that can be met by occupational therapy practitioners." The practice areas include mental health, productive aging, children and youth, health and wellness, work and industry, and rehabilitation, disability and participation. The Indiana State University program developed courses devoted to these areas. Embedded in these courses is the depth of content as described in the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: Domain & Process (2nd ed).
