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The Occupational Therapy Curriculum at Université Laval: The Best of Both Worlds

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Introduction: The transformation of the health system, the evolution of the practice and of the discipline and the populations' changes in health needs encouraged the increase in occupational therapy training programmes in North America. Thus, the province of Québec had to innovate its basic training university programmes at the crossroads between the American and Latin cultures.

Objectives: Participants are introduced to the occupational therapy curriculum at Université Laval, where this French course has to deal with scientific studies published in English. **Description:** The training programme prepares the students to become health professionals while concentrating on the occupation. It aims at developing knowledge based on socio-constructivist approaches also used in occupational therapy. As well, the improved programme follows a practical context that is ever-changing, where problems are now more complex, multidisciplinary and multisectorial. **Results:** The course continuum leads to a Master's degree in occupational therapy, spans from the undergraduate into the graduate programme, lasts 4.5 years, requires 1050 fieldwork hours on a very large urban, semi-urban and rural territory and also offers international and entrepreneurial opportunities and research experiences. **Conclusions:** Professors have chosen a programme approach to ensure the coherent continuum from one course to another. The pedagogical methods are active to favour clinical reasoning. These methods also leave time for practical and self-teaching lab periods, a reflective portfolio, personal and professional development activities and an essay (original research approach). **Contribution to the practice:** This change in the programme has created a new teaching community between professors who had to work together to establish new concepts and the course continuum. Therefore, practical contribution relies on using innovative educational methods to better transmit knowledge, know-how and personal skills to future generations of occupational therapists in order for them to become reflective practitioners, independent learners, dynamic collaborators and leaders in social justice innovations.

** diapositives en español*

References

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