

1221

Occupational Justice in Occupational Therapy Education

Nancy Carlson, Cara Ehst, Abby Sauder
Elizabethtown College, Pennsylvania, United States

Introduction

In the United States, at a small liberal arts institution, the philosophy of liberal learning incorporates global and societal issues. The occupational therapy program at this institution parallels these values through the inclusion of occupational justice. As part of the programs systematic evaluation process the department produces a curricular map to investigate one specific area and its presence within the curriculum. Curricular mapping was included as a component of the self evaluation process to explore the presence of occupational justice within the program.

Participant Objectives

- To articulate an increased understanding of the concept of occupational justice
- To describe the value of occupational justice in the education of occupational therapy practitioners
- To describe how incorporating occupational justice into occupational therapy education programs influences OTs in their practice

Description/report

Occupational justice creates enthusiasm for practice in many OT students and is a passion for us, the two students who initiated this investigation. As part of this process, the students examined the mission, values, and curricular design of the program; course syllabi targeting description, objectives, and assignments; research projects; and co-curricular design. From this information a curricular map was developed to create a visual schematic.

Conclusion

The findings suggest that were areas where occupational justice was greatly evident and opportunities for growth and development. One significant finding from was that students explored their passion for occupational justice through course assignments and research opportunities. Additionally, this opportunity to explore occupational justice throughout the curriculum strengthened our passion and resolve to promote awareness and infuse occupational justice into everyday practice.

Contribution to the practice

Occupational justice is foundational to OT and imperative in the education of practitioners. When students gain an appreciation and understanding of occupational justice they are empowered to use their knowledge and experiences to support both individuals and populations to discover new ways to lead meaningful lives.