

Title: OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EDUCATION UNDER THE PERSPECTIVE OF EQUAL RIGHTS: UNIVERSAL DESIGN, ACCESSIBILITY, AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.

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Abstract

Discussions about equal status seek to promote functionality and autonomy for the population in public areas through universal design, assistive technology and accessibility resources. The main concern is guaranteeing equal rights for everyone, regardless of temporary or permanent disabilities. Professional legislation entitles the occupational therapist the training in daily activities and the usage of accessibility and assistive technology resources both at home and in social environments. This research focuses on the occupational therapist's education, considering the need for professionals capable of acting within the new paradigm and based on the conception of the process of human development. Its objective was to analyze Occupational Therapy education so as to act with accessibility resources and assistive technology. To conduct the research, juniors and seniors majoring in occupational therapy from private, estates and federal Brazilian undergraduate courses were studied. Data collection techniques included surveys and documental analysis. According to the used method, in the first step theoretical and practical subjects from the curriculum were considered. The second step used surveys to assess students' perception of their own capability in the areas of accessibility and assistive technology. The results may help courses to better direct their curricula toward the development of accessibility resources and technologies within the parameters of inclusion and equality.