

Community development in an occupational therapy curriculum – Creating a logic model to conceptualize course design

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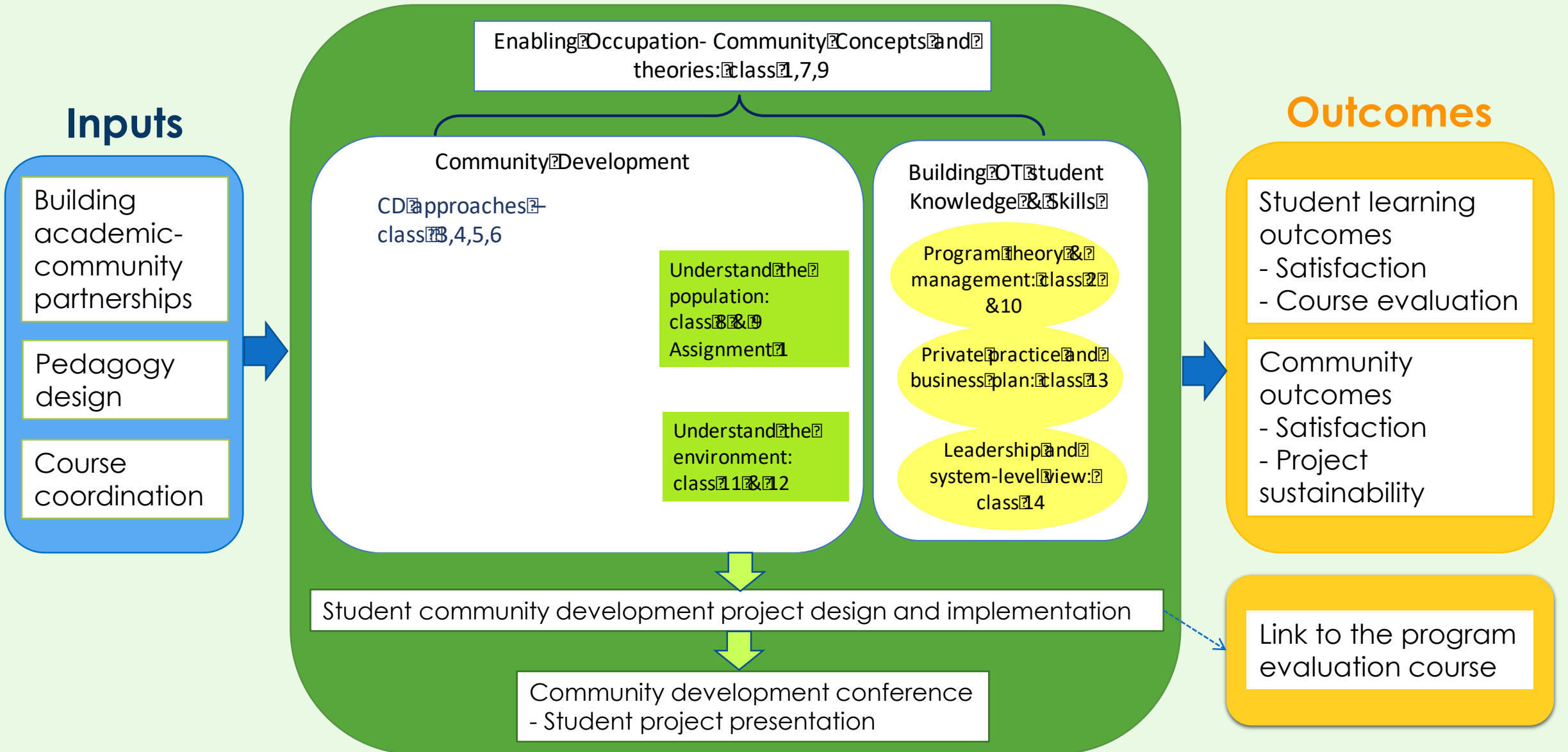
Enabling Occupation - Community

- Occupational therapy has a unique lens of occupation through which we engage with community members in community development (CD) to improve their health and well-being.
- **Community Development**: The process of organizing or supporting community groups in *their identification* of important concerns and issues, and in their ability to plan and implement strategies to mitigate their concerns and resolve their issues. (Labonte, 1997)
- Course objectives:
 - Develop **foundational knowledge about community development** practices in local, national, and international contexts
 - Connect CD to the concept of **occupational justice** and emerging roles for occupational therapists working in the community level
 - Understand and apply approaches for describing programs, services, or supports and the **impact** on the communities they serve



The logic model

Outputs

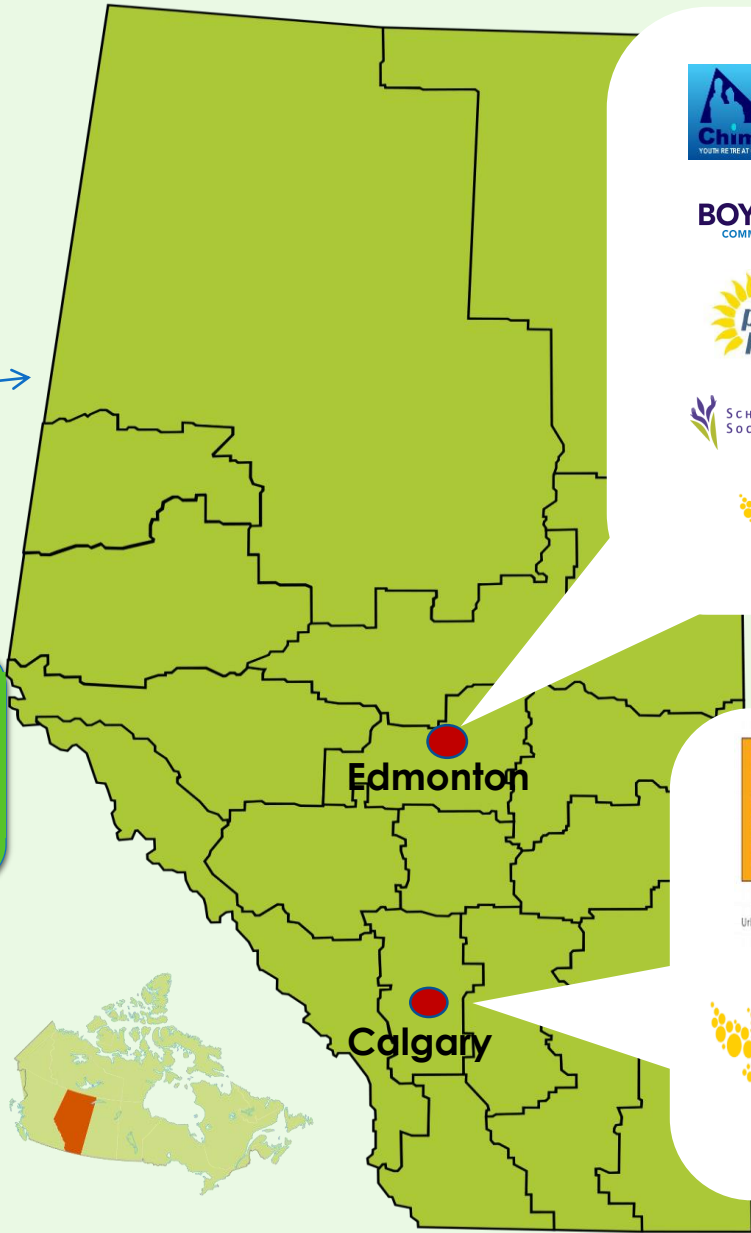


Inputs

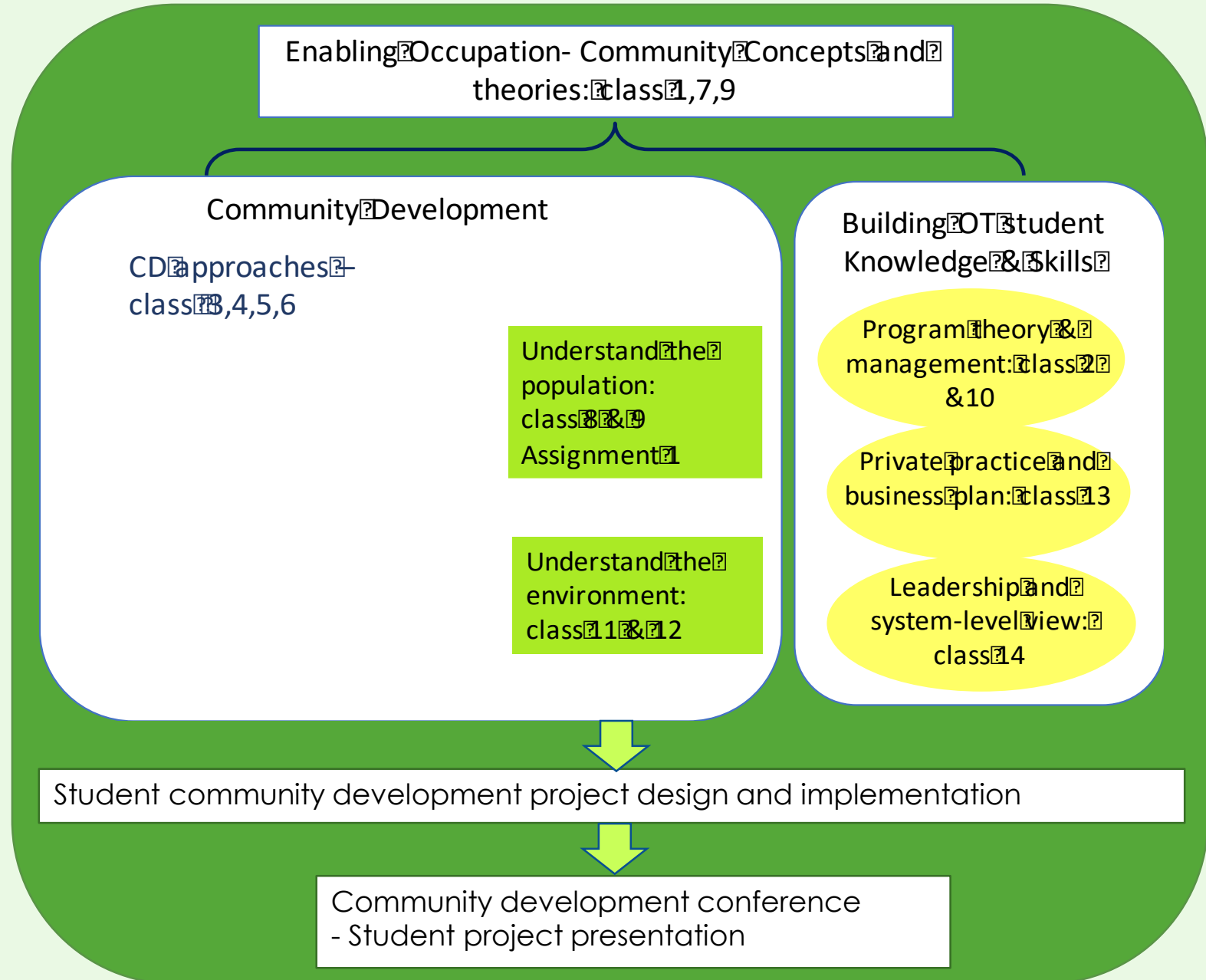
- Building academic-community partnerships
- Pedagogy design
- Course coordination

- Adult learning theory
- Interactive learning
- Hands on practice

Build infrastructure for coordination



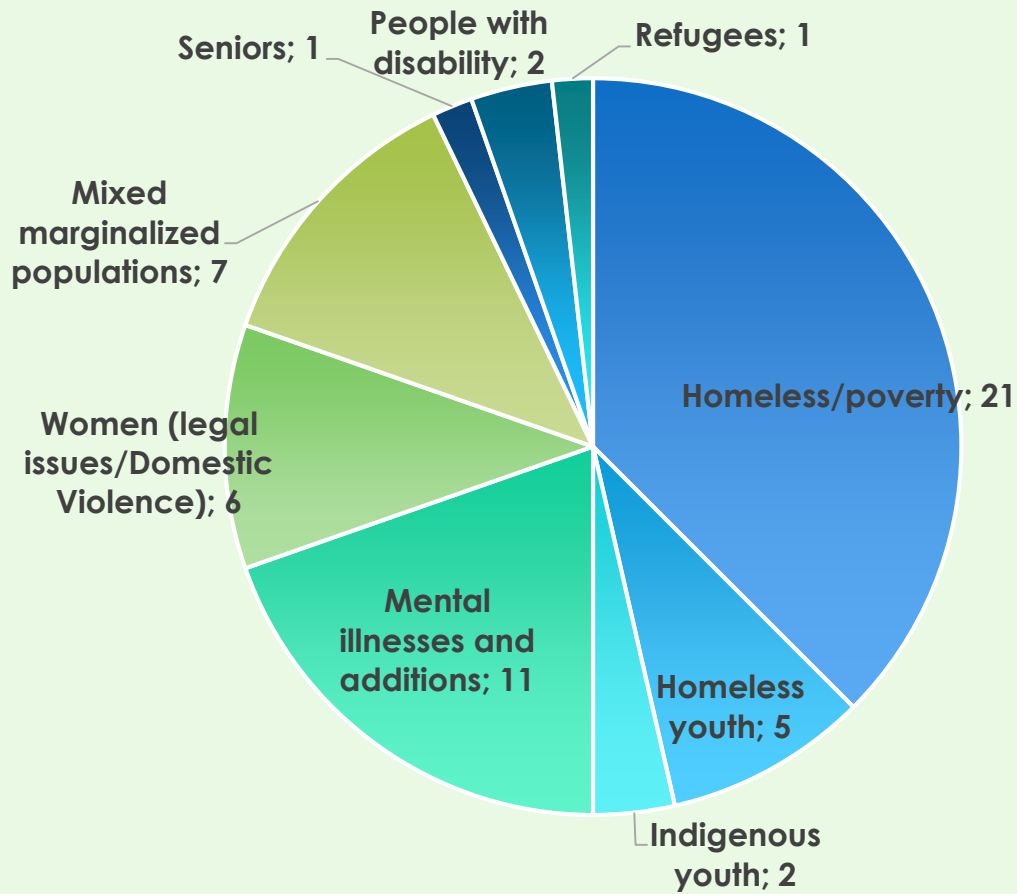
Outputs



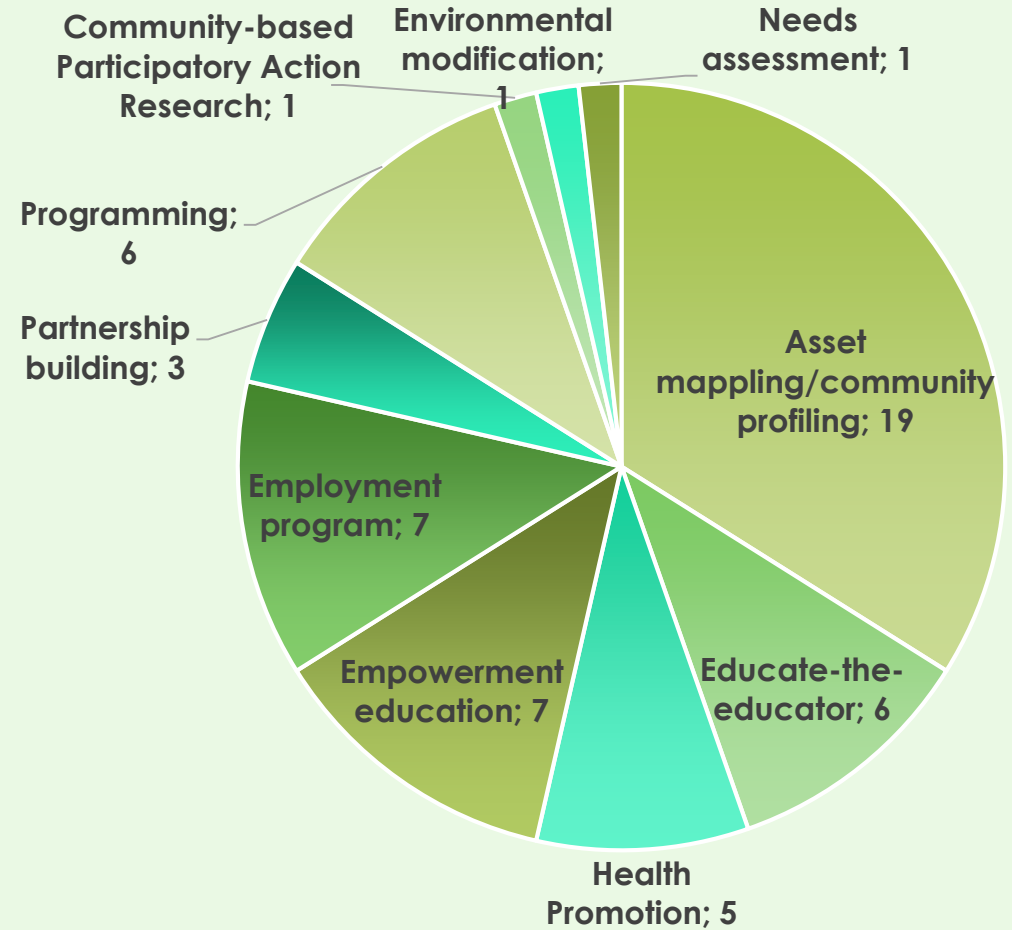
Outputs

- 2017: 30 projects
- 2018: 26 projects

Populations



Projects



Output - student projects

Empowering Permanent Housing Residents to Pursue Employment

Cassie Carlson, Brianne Grane, Jaclyn Hutchinson, Kathryn Lambert, & Faith Whittingham

The Who

- The Mustard Seed is a faith based organization that provides support to adults experiencing poverty and homelessness.
- First established in Edmonton in 1988, some of the Mustard Seed's services include:
 - Meals and hampers
 - Personal hygiene and clothing items
 - Education and employment support
 - Supportive housing for chronic homeless
 - Counseling and spiritual development



Westwood Manor

- 20 suite permanent, supportive housing facility overseen by the Mustard Seed.
 - One staff member always on site
- Residents are provided with own apartment suite and have access to weekly groups and special events, such as resident dinners
- Facility is **harm reduction focused**
 - Many residents currently use substances

The What

- Objective:** develop a program to provide residents of Westwood Manor with employment education and skills
- Identified requirements of program:
 - Holistic** – account for entire job process, from getting ID to maintaining a job
 - Sustainable** – able to be run by housing staff without support of students
 - Empowering** – involvement of residents in program development and delivery

The How

Needs Assessment

- Implemented to gain a better understanding into barriers and priorities regarding employment
- Strengths and barriers identified through discussion with key informants and residents
 - On site meeting with Mustard Seed staff
 - Focus group with Westwood Manor residents
- Six session work and job skills group facilitated on site by a Westwood Manor staff member
- Follows **empowerment education** approach
 - Focus on providing strategies and tools that will build residents' capacities to find and obtain employment
 - Discussions and activities to encourage active problem solving and reflection

What should you put in your resume?



Asset Mapping

- Elements of asset mapping completed to identify suitable community employment resources
 - All community resources located within areas easily accessible to Westwood Manor residents
 - Resources found through internet and contacting other local organizations

End Project

Employment

Session 1: Getting Started

- Key themes identified through collaboration with residents and staff, including:
 - emotional regulation, interpersonal skills, and exploring motivations/ goals
- Sessions follow the job application process
 - What you need to get a job
 - Identifying your interests
 - Resume building
 - Interview preparation
 - First week on the job
 - Maintaining a job



The Why

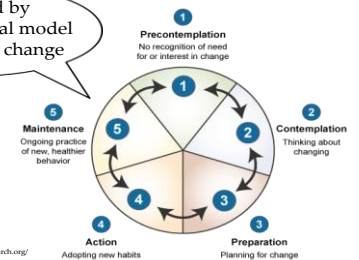
Community Development

- Residents face occupational barriers but do not have consistent access to OT services
- Focus on enhancing capacity of Westwood Manor residents to seek out and obtain employment
 - Employment increases resident independence and community engagement
- Program is intended to be self sustainable
 - Can be delivered by any staff members, and scheduled according to resident needs
 - Ensures that future community members can also benefit from the program

Occupational Therapy

- Employment is a productive occupation that has been linked to higher levels of wellbeing
 - Can provide structure, financial independence, social interaction and meaning/ purpose
- Many individuals who use drugs experience occupational imbalance in their daily lives
 - Unemployment rate significantly higher among individuals who use drugs

Informed by transtheoretical model of behaviour change



References

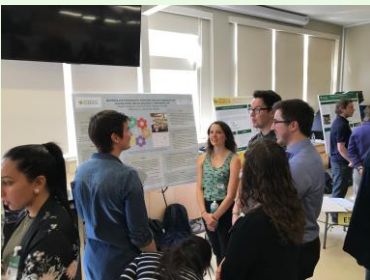
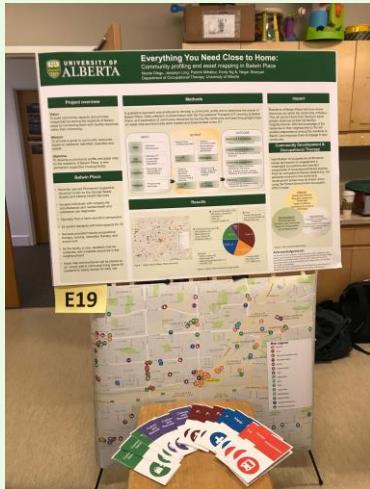
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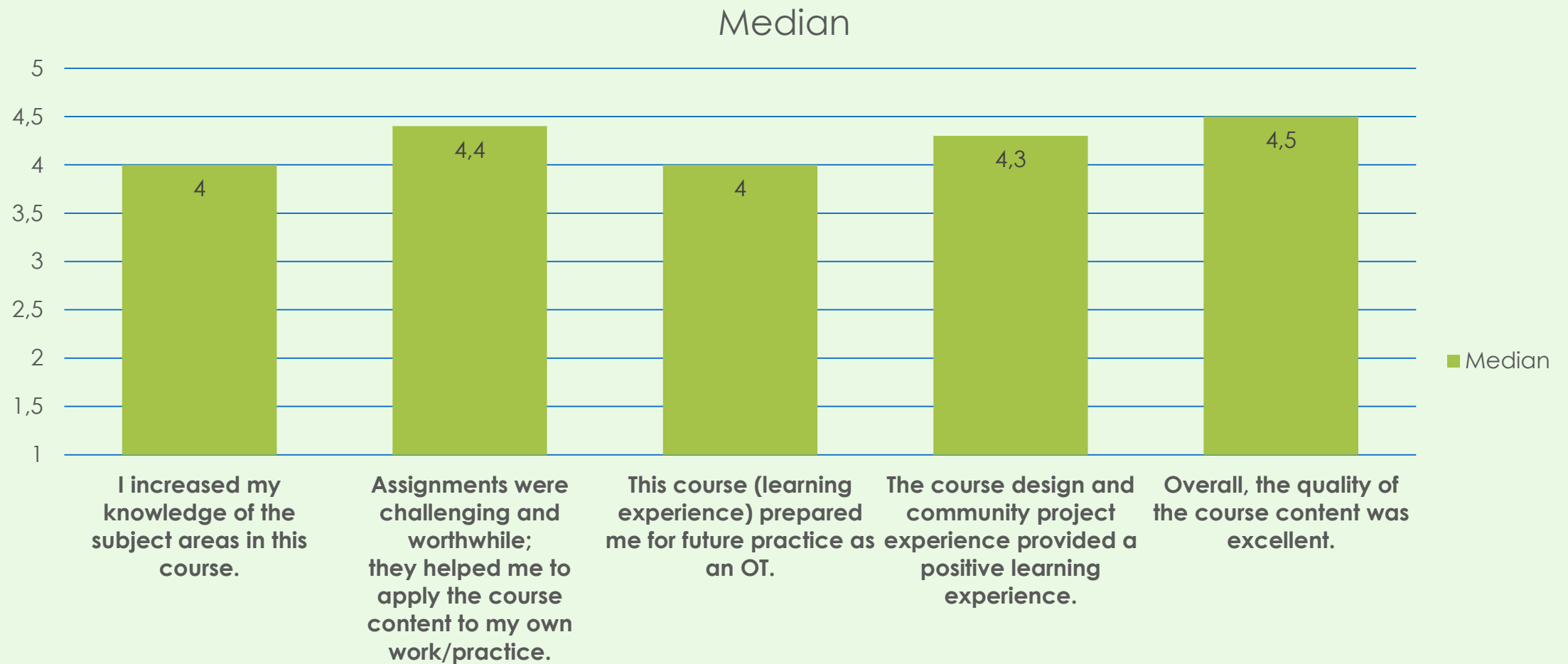
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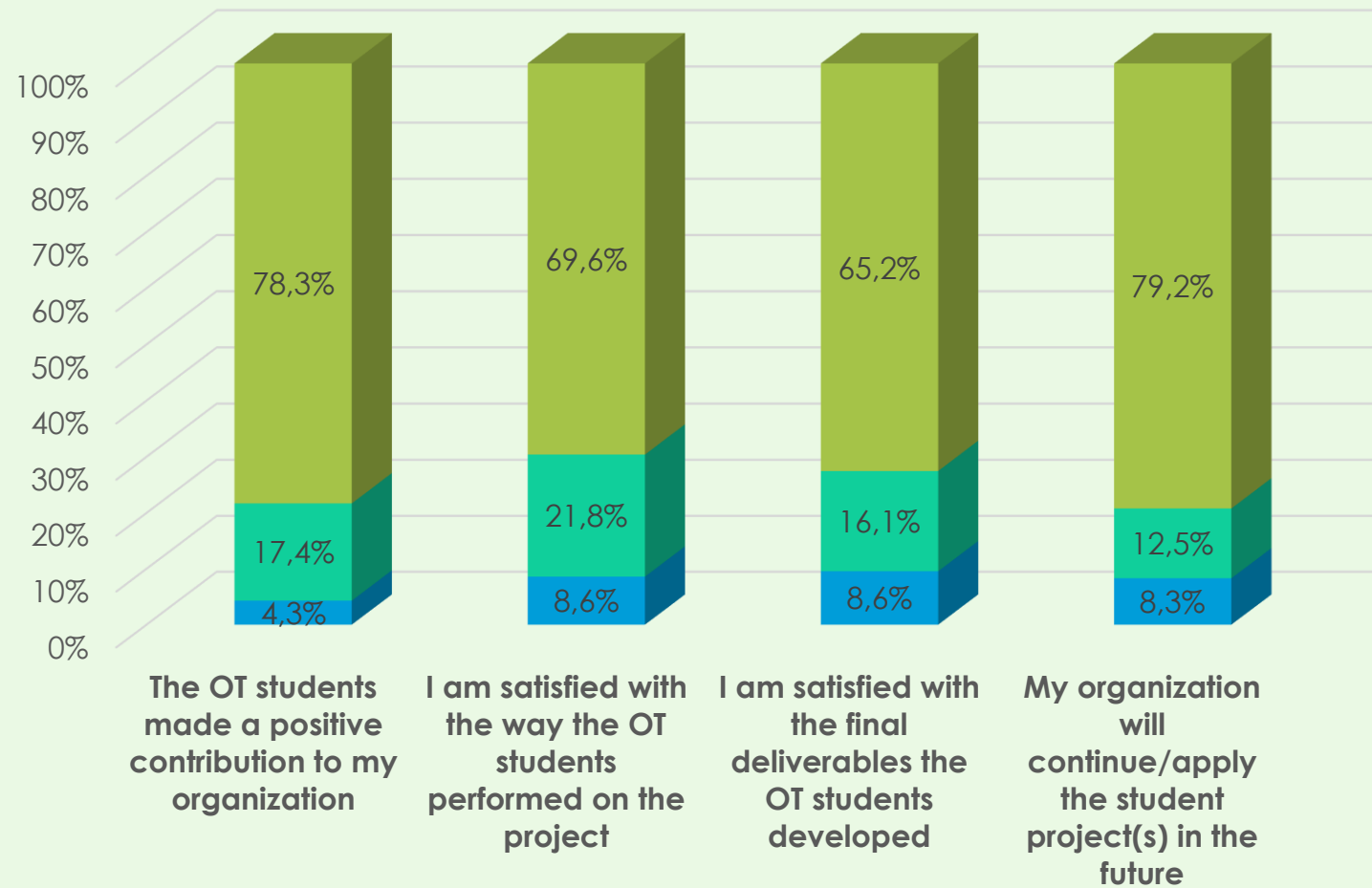
Student Outcomes



2018, Edmonton site, 44/94 respondents

Community Outcomes

Community outcomes

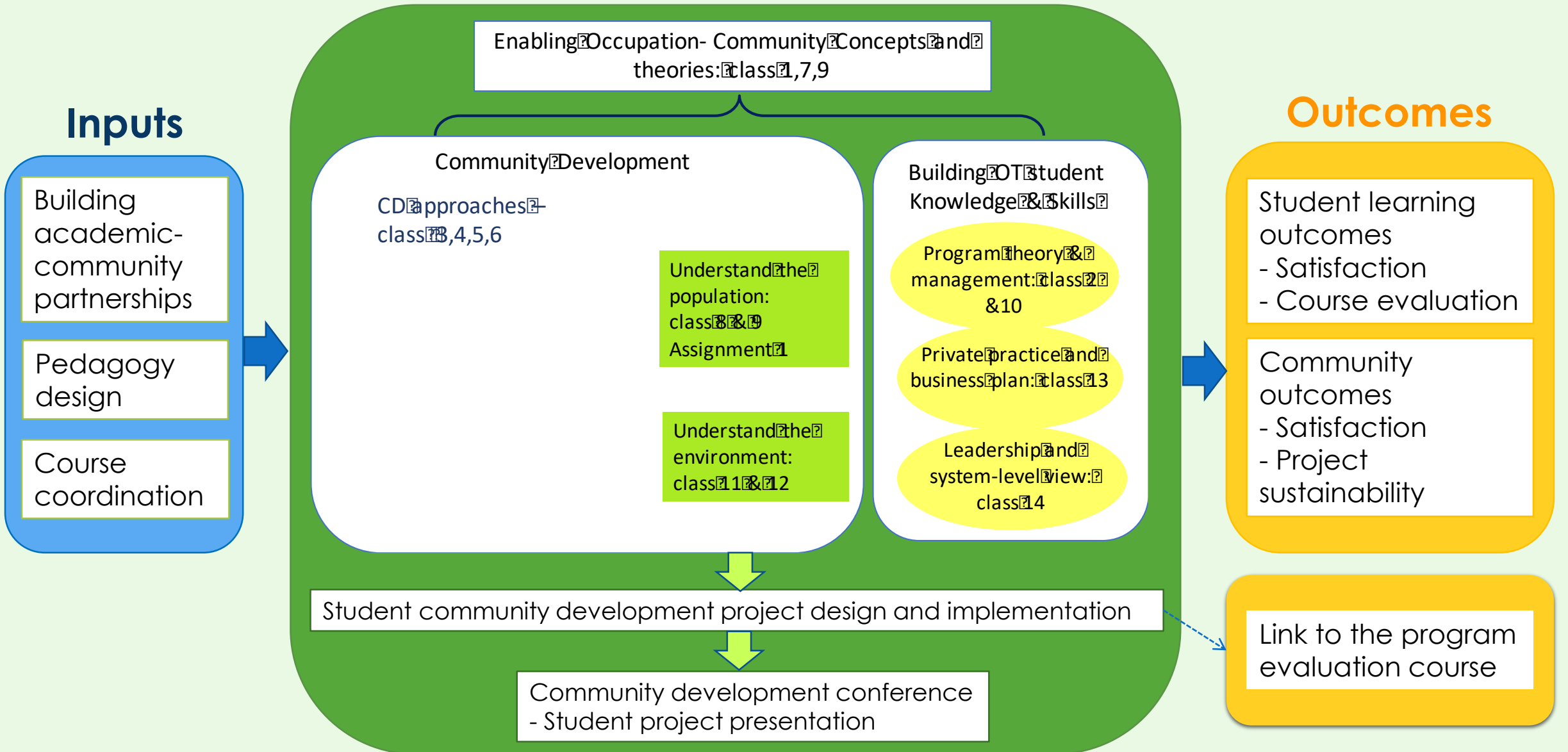


2017 & 2018 community survey
Total agencies responded: 25

■ Neutral ■ Agree ■ Strongly agree

The logic model

Outputs



Conclusion

- Students showed high satisfaction with learning; Community agencies showed high satisfaction with student projects
- We established *academic-community partnerships* with 26 community agencies.
- OT Students conducted 56 CD projects with marginalized populations.
 - The projects utilized established CD strategies. Important CD components such as empowerment and sustainability were evidently applied in each project.
 - Most 2017 projects are **sustained**.
- The logic model makes an explicit statement of the curriculum design and indicates precisely how each activity leads to desired student learning outcomes.
- This initiative demonstrates the application of CD approaches to enable social change at a macro level through increasing capacity in future OTs.

Thank
you

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