Occupational Therapy Education in USA

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State of Nebraska
The heartland
Creighton University

- The number 1 regional university in the Midwest
  – US NEWS & World Report

Background Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Professional Education</th>
<th>Graduate Education</th>
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<td>Programs that enroll students for service delivery of a particular profession</td>
<td>Master’s &amp; doctoral degrees</td>
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<td>Highly influenced by professions they serve</td>
<td>Historically, the intent:</td>
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<td>Standards are set at a minimally accepted level</td>
<td>- Character formation</td>
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<td>Directed on: professional competency, understanding of society, ethical behavior and scholarly concern (Mayhew &amp; Ford, 1974, p. 3)</td>
<td>- Preparation of college teachers</td>
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<td>- Research in specialized field</td>
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<td>- Enter work force &amp; apply research competencies in professional fields</td>
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Levels of Education is USA (Coppard & Dickerson, 2007)

• Associate
  – At least 2 yrs, but not > 4 yrs of education
• Baccalaureate
  – 4-5 full-time equivalent academic yrs
  – BS / BA (bachelor of science, *atrium baccalaureus*)
• Master’s
  – Approximately 36 credits of post-baccalaureate education in a subject field
  – Types: academic, professional, and experiential
  – Historical intent: produce graduates with beginning research or inquiry skills
  – Not easily compared

Levels of Education in US (Coppard & Dickerson, 2007)

• Doctoral
  – Highest degree conferred
  – Equivalent of 3 yrs- 5 yrs full-time post-baccalaureate education
  – Usually a minimum of 72 credits + residency
  – Types:
    • Research or Academic (PhD): requirements include didactic coursework, written or oral comprehensive exams, completion of dissertation
    • Doctor of Science (ScD): Focus is on the study of applied science; requirements include didactic coursework, advanced clinical practicum, clinical research project
    • Professional (e.g., OTD, DPT, PharmD, MD, etc.): seldom requires a master’s degree, sophisticated clinical competencies
Post Doctoral & Residency Education

**Post Doctoral Education**
- Intent: produce highly knowledgeable, creative, work in universities, government, & industry (Carmichael, 1961)
- AKA: postdoctoral fellow, postdoctoral research associate, postdoctoral trainee (Knowles, 1977)

**Residency**
- Not common in OT
- Advanced preparation as a provider of patient care services in a defined area of practice (DiFabio, 1999)
- Includes integration of practice, research and scholarly inquiry (Medeiros, 1998)
- Offer after a doctoral degree

Professional or Clinical Doctorate

- Seldom requires a master’s degree or dissertation (Unger, 1996)
- Intent: “sophisticated practice competencies” (Pierce & Peyton, 1999, p. 64)
- Entry into a profession at the clinical doctorate level usually requires passing a national examination to practice (Unger, 1996)
- Typically requires mentored advanced clinical experiences (Edens & Labadie, 1987; Faut-Callahan, 1992; Hummer, Hunt, & Figuers, 1994; Pierce & Peyton, 1999; Watson, 1988)
Occupational Therapy Education in USA

Approximately 140,000 OTs practice in US
Graduated from an accredited occupational therapy program
Over 156 OT programs in US
Currently, there are different entry levels: Master (MAOT, MSOT), OTD (clinical/professional doctorate), and PhD

Resolution J passed in 1997
Mandate occupational therapy education move to post baccalaureate entry into the field by 2007
OT programs in US have been transited to post baccalaureate education
Offer entry-level masters and entry-level doctorate (entry-level OTD) programs
Currently, there are five entry level OTD programs and many post professional OTD degrees
Possible Mandate in 2025

Mandate occupational therapy education move to doctoral entry into the field by 2025
Offer entry-level doctorate (entry-level OTD) programs
Currently, there are
  Six American entry level OTD programs and many post professional OTD degrees
  Six American universities in the OTD academic program candidate status phase
  Eight in the applicant status phase (American Occupational Therapy Association)

Possible requirement in 2025

Rationale:
Multifactorial: Internal and external
National politics, demographics, level of healthcare services, economy, funding models for healthcare services, results of scientific research, geography, and the colleagues with whom we work
Impact on international community?
Requirement for Occupational Therapists

Graduated from an ACOTE accredited OT program
Pass the certification exam and become a registered occupational therapist
When practicing in different state, he/she needs to be licensed

Choose a mission-driven school for occupational therapy!
• Occupational therapy is the science and art of facilitating well-being through occupation.
• The profession is particularly concerned with how people construct meaningful lives.
Welcome

• OT Education in USA: A case illustration

Clinical Doctoral Degree in Occupational Therapy

• 2 Pathways leading to the degree of OTD

**Entry Level:** Students who do not have a previous degree in occupational therapy, but who have completed the prerequisite coursework

First entry level OTD in USA
Ranked #15 among over 156 programs in USA

**Post Professional:** Students having a bachelor’s or master’s degree in occupational therapy who wish to pursue the clinical doctorate degree
Reasons for Post Baccalaureate Entry into Occupational Therapy

• Must demonstrate unprecedented level of advanced clinical reasoning
• Define & demonstrate the uniqueness of occupational therapy
• Demand for autonomous & interdependent practitioners
• Environment reinforces move to this level

(Hughes, Brayman, Clark, Delaney & Miller, 1998)

Reasons for Post Baccalaureate Entry into Occupational Therapy (cont.)

• Preparation for outcomes research & evidence based practice
• Serve on interdisciplinary teams
• Clarify delineation between therapist & assistant
• Keep with trends in related professions/fields

(Hughes, Brayman, Clark, Delaney & Miller, 1998)
Creighton’s Rationale

- Institutional prerogative & context
- Proliferation of OT knowledge base
- Shortage of doctorally prepared faculty
- Few PhD programs in occupational therapy
- Need for advanced training
- Need for occupational therapists to possess leadership abilities
- Advanced degree for clinical focus (vs. research)

(Runyon, Aitken, & Stohs, 1994)

Clinical Doctorate (OTD)

- Creighton and Nova Southeastern University simultaneously started the post professional doctorate degree in OT.
- The OTD was started as a post-professional degree in 1995 with the 1st class graduating in 1997.
  - There were 8 students in that class.
- The 1st entry level OTD students started in 1999 & graduated in 2002.
- The 1st entry level OTD distance cohort started in 2008.
- The second distance cohort started in 2013
- The third distance cohort will start in 2015
Future

• ACOTE (Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education) created separate standards for the OTD entry level degree.
  – Added requirement of a bachelor’s degree as a prerequisite starting in 2010.
  – Our program already meets or exceeds the standards.
  – We received full accreditation for 10 years following the recent ACOTE review, September 2010.
  – Zero citations and multiple areas of strength listed.
  – The curriculum continues to be refined and revised.

Curriculum Overview
Curriculum Model

• In order to conceptualize the OT curriculum at Creighton, a model comprised of three themes and two threads is used.

• Themes are not addressed in courses sequentially, rather they are nested so that contents of each theme unfold over the 8 semesters / 3 years of the program.

Curriculum: 1st Year

Fall - 1st Semester
(16 credits)
• Occupations and Occupational Therapy
• Occupation and Health: Population Perspectives
• Professional Practice and Ethical Formation Seminar
• Neuroanatomy
• Health Conditions

Spring - 2nd Semester
(18 credits)
• Research Proposal
• Clinical Anatomy
• Clinical Anatomy Lab
• Applied Kinesiology
• Physical Rehabilitation I: Evaluation
• Occupational Therapy in Mental Health
• Level IA Fieldwork: Mental Health

* Italicized denotes course with laboratory component. Bolded courses are experiential.
Curriculum: 1\textsuperscript{st} Year (cont.)

Summer – 3\textsuperscript{rd} Semester (8.5 credits)
- Physical Rehabilitation II: Neurorehabilitation
- Upper Extremity Evaluation and Intervention I
- Level IB Fieldwork: Physical Rehabilitation

* Italics denotes course with a laboratory component. Bolded courses are experiential courses.

Curriculum: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Year

Fall – 4\textsuperscript{th} Semester (18 credits)
- Research Project Implementation I
- Neuro-Occupation
- Occupational Therapy with Older Adults
- Upper Extremity Evaluation and Intervention II
- Occupational Therapy with Children and Youth I
- Critical Analysis of Occupational Therapy Practice
- Clinical Education Seminar I
- Level IC Fieldwork: Pediatric or Selected Practice Setting

* Italics denotes course with a laboratory component. Bolded courses are experiential courses.

Spring – 5\textsuperscript{th} Semester (18 credits)
- Research Project Implementation II
- Management and Program Development
- Disability and Healthcare Policy
- Occupational Therapy with Children and Youth II
- Physical Rehabilitation III: Interventions and Outcomes
- Clinical Education Seminar II
- Level ID Fieldwork: Pediatric or Selected Practice Setting
Curriculum: 2nd Year (cont.)
Summer – 6th Semester (12 credits)
• Level IIA Fieldwork

Fieldwork: Through the Lens of an Occupational Therapy Student

2012 Winning Submissions

*Bolded courses are experiential courses.

Curriculum: 3rd Year

Fall – 7th Semester (15.5 credits)
First 3 weeks
• Professional Identity and Ethical Perspectives in the Ignatian Tradition (online format)

Last 12 weeks
• Professional Competency (online format)
• Level IIB Fieldwork

Spring – 8th Semester (17 credits)
• Professional Rotation
• Capstone (online format & final campus component)
Curriculum Summary

- 8 semesters
- 3 academic years
- 123 credits
- 36 classes
- 12 labs
- 43.5 weeks of clinical experiences
  - 4 Level I Fieldworks
  - 2 Level II Fieldworks
  - 1 Professional Rotation

Electives

- The program is “lock-step”
- Student may choose to enroll in additional electives; examples are:
  - Spanish for Health Professionals
  - Institute for Latin American Concerns (ILAC) Immersion
  - Exploring Spirituality in Occupational Therapy
  - Foundations in Patient Safety
  - Cultural Immersion and Experiential Learning in China
  - Directed Independent Studies
The goals of the OTD program are to prepare therapists who:

1. Demonstrate entry-level occupational therapy clinical skills.
2. Develop a new or refine an existing program that enhances occupational therapy practice.
3. Demonstrate positive interpersonal skills and insight into one’s professional behaviors to accurately appraise one’s professional disposition strengths and areas for improvement.
4. Demonstrate the ability to practice educative roles for clients, peers, students, and others in community and clinical settings.
5. Influence policy, practice, and education by advocating for occupational therapy services for individuals and populations and for the profession.
6. Demonstrate leadership aptitude and characteristics to assume leadership roles at the local, national, and international levels in occupational therapy, health professions, and the community.
7. Develop essential knowledge and skills to contribute to the advancement of occupational therapy through scholarly activities.
8. Apply principles and constructs of ethics to individual, institutional, and societal issues, and articulate justifiable resolutions to these issues and act in an ethical manner.
Collaboration partnership in OT education in China

- A master program in Rehabilitation with a focus in OT
  - For students who graduated with a bachelor degree in rehabilitation (not approved by WFOT)
    - 1.5 year study: 1 year in USA and .5 year in China
    - A total of 36 credit hours
    - Receive a Master degree from Creighton University
    - MS in Rehabilitation with a focus in OT

Collaboration partnership in OT education in China

- A master program in OT
- For students who graduated with a bachelor degree in OT from a program that has been approved by WFOT
  - 1.5 year study: 1 year in USA and .5 year in China
  - A total of 36 credit hours
  - Receive a Master degree in OT from Creighton University
  - MSOT
References

This presentation was developed based on previous various presentations by OT faculty at Creighton University.


Questions?