

Re-Entry into Occupational Therapy Practice

The Board first considered the issue of applicants for licensure in Oregon who have not been licensed or have not practiced as an Occupational Therapist (or Assistant) for a long period of time in 2004. What should the Board require of a person who has not practiced occupational therapy for over three years?

Initially, by rule Oregon required someone not licensed for up to three years to complete 15 points per year of Continuing Education for the previous three years. Those applicants not licensed for more than three years were required to either retake the NBCOT examination or complete a Board approved Re-Entry Program. A program was developed with John White, Director of the School of Social Work at Pacific University, in Forest Grove, Oregon.

In looking at the problem in the past where the applicant needs to relearn the educational and practical skills necessary to practice occupational therapy safely in the state, the Board came across several problems. First, the applicant, because they are not licensed cannot do any “hands on” work with patients. Second, there are issues of liability and insurance. Third, there are problems of how the mentor could show that after 40 hours the applicant was ready to work as an OT again. There were applications the board considered who had not worked or been licensed for ten years. **The Board’s primary mission is to protect the public by supervising occupational therapy practice and to assure the safe and ethical delivery of occupational therapy services.**

John White, Director of Pacific University, School of Occupational Therapy developed a Re-Entry program to help with the educational and practical skills that are needed in such cases. Occupational Therapists have now completed the Re-Entry Program and been licensed by the Oregon OT Licensing Board. The Rules have been completed and in 2007 the legal requirements were added to ORS 675.240 and 675.250 as Qualifications for licensing as occupational therapist and assistant.

Pacific University will now start accepting Occupational Therapy Assistant applicants into the program in the Fall, 2008.

The Re-Entry program now is the means for the Board to allow former occupational therapists to return to practice in Oregon and to protect the public, which is the primary mission of the Oregon OT Licensing Board. Applicants also have the option of retaking the NBCOT examination. Look under Proposed Rules for these changes. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact the Director by e-mail at Felicia.M.Holgate@state.or.us or call 971-673-0198 and we will work on getting you licensed in Oregon.

(The Board no longer approves a “mentorship” for applicants if they have been out of practice and not licensed for more than three years.)

FH 10/08

Pacific University College of Health Professions

School of Occupational Therapy
OT 639 OT Re-entry to Occupational Therapy Practice (Online Study)
(Re-entry Program)
Course Syllabus

Course Number and Title:

OT 639 OT Re-entry to Occupational Therapy Practice (Re-entry Program)

Sections of the course:

Physical rehabilitation
Mental health
Pediatric
Other

Faculty:

Didactic component:

Primary instructor: Sean Roush, OTD, OTR/L

Email: rous4634@pacificu.edu Telephone: By Special Arrangement

Office hours: By Special Arrangement

Supporting faculty: John White, Ph.D., OTR/L

Email: whiteja@pacificu.edu Telephone: 503-352-7355

Office hours: 10-11:00 Wednesdays, 4-5:30 Mondays, or by appointment

Fieldwork Component:

Academic Fieldwork Coordinator:

Sandra Pelham-Foster, MPA/HA, BScOT, OTR/L, BCP

Email: pelh4106@pacificu.edu Telephone: 503-352-7351

Office hours: by appointment for phone or in-person appointments

Semester and year: Fall 2008

Level: Re-entry, post-baccalaureate

Credits: 2

Graded: Pass/No Pass (repeatable one time for credit)

Location: On-line

Course description:

Didactic and fieldwork experiences to support the occupational therapist who has been out of practice for three or more years, to re-enter practice and regain an Oregon license to practice. Course provides information on, and application of, current OT theory, practice, terminology, and evidence-based practice, and includes an 80 hour supervised fieldwork experience. (2 credits, graded Pass/No Pass, repeatable one time for credit)

Supplemental Course Description:

A critical factor in returning to occupational therapy practice after a period of 3 years or more is to understand how practice has changed. This involves updating one's knowledge in the theories that guide practice and being able to do the occupational therapy process of evaluation and intervention in the context of actual practice. The course consists of 2 components – a didactic component with the focus on best practice in occupational therapy and an fieldwork component with the focus on the practical application of the occupational

therapy process. A faculty member from the School of Occupational Therapy at Pacific University facilitates the didactic component. The fieldwork component is facilitated by a licensed Occupational therapist in collaboration with the School of Occupational Therapy academic fieldwork coordinator (AFC). The collaborative design of the course between the educational and practice communities is based on the framework for professional education in occupational therapy as described by Gail Fidler (1965) and Wendy Wood and her colleague's (2000). In her Eleanor Clark Slagle lecture, Fidler put forth "Professional preparation requires that the educational process be concerned with teaching a body of principles and concepts rather than routine skills or 'slide rule approaches'" (p.86). In her lecture she acknowledges the importance of learning both the knowledge guiding practice and the skills to carry out practice, and puts forth that the skills to carry out the occupational therapy process is best learned in the context of the practice setting. Wendy Wood and colleagues also support this view of professional education in their 2000 article on graduate occupational therapy education.

Fidler, G. (1966). Learning as a growth process: A conceptual framework for professional education. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 20, 1-8.

Wood, W., Nielson, C., Humphry, R., Coppola, S., Baranek, G., & Rourk, J. (2000). A curricular renaissance: graduate education centered on occupation *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 54(6), 586-597

Rationale for the course:

The "Re-entry to Occupational Therapy Practice" course is designed for the study of specific topic/areas in occupational therapy practice to prepare the occupational therapy practitioner to re-enter practice. The curriculum is designed so that as students learn the theoretical knowledge of the occupational therapy profession, there is also the opportunity to apply their new knowledge in practice. Therefore the Re-entry to Occupational Therapy Practice course has a didactic component and an internship component. Students explore the role of theory as it guides practice and is a foundation for critical thinking and clinical reasoning. Students learn and apply occupational therapy models of practice and use theoretical frames of reference to guide their reasoning in the OT process of evaluation and intervention. Current issues affecting the practice of occupational therapy, such as regulatory agencies and reimbursement, are examined and incorporated into the clinical reasoning process. Students are introduced to application of the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (2002) to facilitate use of the OT Process in practice. Students examine the concept of evidence-based practice and the value of providing occupational therapy services that are based on current evidence. A culminating 80-hour internship (ideally implemented as 1 day per week for ten weeks) provides the student the opportunity to apply and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and clinical reasoning involved in the occupational therapy evaluation and intervention process.

Youngstrom, M. J., & al., e. (2002). Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: Domain and process. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 56(6), 609-639.

Course Objectives	Assessment methods
1. Understand how theories, models of practice, and frames of reference are used in the occupational therapy process of evaluation and intervention.	
2. Understand the importance of research, evidence, and the continued development of a knowledge base relevant to the occupational therapy enhances the effectiveness of the profession.	
3. Understand the role of occupation in the promotion of health and the prevention of disease and disability.	
4. Understand the models of health care, education, community, and social systems as they relate to the practice of occupational therapy.	
5. Demonstrate knowledge to comply with the various reimbursement mechanisms and documentation requirements that affect the practice of occupational therapy, including but not limited to, federal, state, third party, and private payer reimbursement practices.	
6. Identify evaluation and intervention strategies that are culturally relevant, evidence-based, and based on theoretical perspectives, models of practice, and frames of reference.	
7. Demonstrate entry-level competency (knowledge, skills, and abilities) in the occupational therapy process of evaluation and intervention in chosen practice setting during internship.	

Teaching/learning methods: This course is offered online on a web-based virtual classroom environment called Blackboard and assignments are submitted by email to the instructors. The course includes a fieldwork component that is individually arranged with the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. Written assignments include the completion of the AOTA Professional Development Tool, three short essays, eight Critically Appraised Papers (CAP's), **culminating in a Critically Appraised Topic (CAT)**, Discussion Board participation, and a Case Study (see assignments for details). Completion of these assignments provides a framework to guide your learning and to demonstrate your progress in meeting the course learning objectives.

Shadowing in Practice Settings:

Re-entry course students are encouraged to arrange “shadowing” opportunities with practicing occupational therapists in their chosen practice area in order to optimize their familiarity the knowledge and skills needed to re-enter practice. These shadowing observations of practitioners should begin as soon as the re-entering therapist-student decides to take the course. These observations will optimize the didactic course work and help in preparation for the fieldwork component.

Course Requirements/Expectations: Professional behavior is expected in all interactions. Online learning is presented in a unique environment that can “depersonalize” the learning experience as no face-to-face contact is possible. It is especially important to remember that, although you may be working alone in your physical environment, you are participating in an online learning community in

which professional behaviors are still to be expected. The student must take active responsibility for exploring areas within the course and engaging in learning activities of specific professional and personal interest. Assignments should be submitted by midnight on the due date unless specific arrangements have been made with the primary instructor. **Students must complete a web-based program for basic health care providers related to infection control, safety and confidentiality prior to beginning fieldwork.**

On-line courses: The course website can be accessed at: [My Blackboard](#). Assignments should be submitted to the primary instructor at rous4634@pacificu.edu and cc'd to whiteja@pacificu.edu and pelh4106@pacificu.edu. Please identify assignments in the subject line with the course number, your last name, and the title of the assignment (ex. OT 639, Roush, CAP1). Any questions regarding the course or assignments should be addressed to the primary instructor via email.

Evaluation methods: This class is graded pass/no pass. All assignments must be completed and submitted according to the schedule in order to pass the class. Assignments will be primarily graded on content rather than formatting but APA formatting is appreciated whenever possible. **Grading criteria will be provided for each assignment.** The instructor will attempt to have assignments graded and returned via email with comments and a grade of pass/no pass within 2 weeks of submission. Assignments with a no pass grade will be expected to be re-submitted with changes required within 2 weeks of their return to the student.

Learning Resources:

Required texts/readings:

American Occupational Therapy Association [AOTA] (2002). Occupational therapy practice framework: Domain and process. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 56, 609-639. (*The OTPF can also be purchased as a separate text from AOTA (www.aota.org click "shop on-line")*)

Crepeau, E.B., Cohn, E.S., & Schell, B.B. (Eds.). (2003). *Willard & Spackman's occupational therapy* (10th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins. (*you're encouraged to purchase a used copy, or borrow one from an OT colleague, the 11th edition is expected to be published in April 2008*)

Kielhofner, G. (2004). *Conceptual foundations of occupational therapy* (3rd ed.). Philadelphia, PA: F.A. Davis.

Recommended texts/readings:

An Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) text is highly recommended: Either by Law or Sackett Law, M. (Ed.). (2002). *Evidence-based rehabilitation: A guide to practice*. Thorofare, NJ: Slack.

Sackett, D. L., Straus, S. E., Richardson, W. S., Rosenberg, W. M. C., & Haynes, R. (2000). *Evidence-based medicine: How to practice and teach EBM* (2nd ed.). New York: Churchill Livingstone.

By Practice Arena:

Pediatrics:

Dunn, W. (2002). *Best practice occupational therapy: In community service with children & families*. Thorofare, NJ: Slack, Inc.

Kramer, P. & Hinojosa, J. (1999). *Frames of reference for pediatric occupational therapy* (2nd ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.

Physical Rehabilitation:

Bertoti, D.B. (2004). *Functional neurorehabilitation across the lifespan*. Philadelphia, PA: F.A. Davis.

Jacobs, M. & Austin, N. (2003). *Splinting the hand and upper extremity*. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.

Katz, N. (2004). *Cognition and occupation across the life span: Models for intervention in occupational therapy*. (2nd ed.). Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy Association.

Lundy-Ekman, L. (2002). *Neuroscience: Fundamentals for rehabilitation* (2nd ed.). W.B. Saunders.

Pendleton, H. M., & Schultz-Krohn, W. (2006). *Pedretti's occupational therapy: Practice skills for physical dysfunction* (6th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Mosby Elsevier.

Trombly, C.A., & Radomski, M.V. (Eds.). (2002). *Occupational therapy for physical dysfunction* (5th ed.). Baltimore, MD: Williams & Wilkins.

Psychosocial:

Bruce, M.G. & Borg, B. (2002). *Psychosocial frames of reference: Core for occupation-based practice* (3rd ed.). Thorofare, NJ: Slack, Inc.

Katz, N. (2004). *Cognition and occupation across the life span: Models for intervention in occupational therapy*. (2nd ed.). Bethesda, MD: American Occupational Therapy Association.

General:

Christiansen, C.H. & Matuska, K.M. (2004). *Ways of living: Adaptive strategies for special needs* (3rd ed.). Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.

Christiansen, C.H. & Townsend, E.A. (2004). *Introduction to occupation: The art and science of living*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Reed, K.L. (2001). *Quick reference to occupational therapy*. Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen.

Formatting and Referencing:

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author.

Other resources:

Library resources can be accessed online at: <http://www.pacificu.edu/library/>. Support for library resources at the Health Professions Campus can be accessed by phone at 503-352-7331 or through email at hpclib@pacificu.edu. Library support on the main Pacific University Forest Grove campus can be obtained by phone at 503-352-1400.

Students may also find various internet resources which may be helpful. When using internet resources please be sure to cite the URL and date of access.

Assignments & Learning Activities: See assignments link on the course website.

Disability and Accommodation:

Occupational therapists are advocates for the participation of people with disabilities in their chosen activities and participating to their full abilities in society. In that spirit, we support the provision of reasonable accommodations that allow students to participate in the School of OT program, assuming that the student is able to meet the essential functions of a student in course-and fieldwork. Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Learning Support Services office to discuss specific needs. Please contact Edna K. Gehring, Director of Learning Support Services for Students with Disabilities at x2107, via Email at gehringe@pacificu.edu, or stop by the LSS office (McCormick 219 or 203). The LSS is responsible for coordinating reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Academic Integrity:

You are to review the “Academic Conduct Policies” on pages 96-99 of the *Pacific Graduate Professions Catalog 2006-08*. The catalog describes the consequences for violations of this policy, as well as your rights if charged with such a violation. It is especially important to be aware of the definition of, and risks associated with, plagiarism. Electronic technology has made it easier than ever to commit plagiarism, even unwittingly, so be informed of these risks and the steps you can take to guard against it, so that you can submit work that you can be confident is your own, while fully crediting the work of others. Getting in the habit of attributing credit for intellectual content (words and ideas), through proper referencing styles, will also build good habits of scholarship that will serve you well in education and in practice.