Course outline for Senior Sophister Occupational Therapy

The focus of the fourth year is for students to apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes gained in the previous three years to practice in a variety of work settings through practice education. College based courses in the second semester emphasise clinical reasoning and critical reflection of practice and integration of knowledge to practice. They aim to deepen the student’s appreciation of the context of practice, ethical considerations in practice and evaluation of practice. The study of occupation in fourth year links the theories of occupation studied in earlier years with practice issues raised. Students complete their research project as part of the final degree. As part of professional development, students in the fourth year are supported by seminars from Trinity college human resource staff in areas such as interview skills and preparation of curriculum vitae.

Senior Sophister Modules

OT 4015 Disability Studies
Disability Studies examines the way in which disability is constructed in society and explores disability as a social, cultural and political phenomenon. Disability Studies perceives disability as a key aspect of the human experience and goes beyond traditional medical and therapeutic perspectives on disabilities, which habitually perceive disability as merely a characteristic that exists within the person or is a problem of the person. Instead Disability Studies challenges students to perceive disability as a construct that finds meaning within a social and cultural context and in doing so contributes to students’ professional development as client-centered and culturally competent practitioners.

OT4033 Research Methods
The Research Methods course stretches across three years – second, third and fourth year. Teaching takes place in second and third year. In the period between end of semester one in third year and week four of semester two in fourth year, students, in self-selected groups of two or three (at the discretion of the course co-ordinators), undertake an empirical research project. In fourth year students will attend a number of workshops in the first week of semester one. During this semester students will continue to meet with their supervisors while undertaking their research projects.

SS4990 Social Policy analysis
The purpose of the module is to enable students to integrate the social policy concepts covered in the third year module with their placement experience through the completion of a 5000 project in which they analyse one aspect / dimension of social policy in theory and in practice (based on placement experience).

OT4019 Study of Occupation
The purpose of this course on the Study of Occupation in the third and fourth years is to link the theories of occupation studied in earlier years with practice issues
raised in the Occupational Therapy Theories and Interventions for Adults course and on practice education.

**OT4029 Occupational Therapy- Case Studies**

This module is taken by Senior Sophister students in the 2nd Semester. This module aims to merge student’s clinical experiences with theoretical knowledge using case studies which they have collected during practice education. It facilitates students to analyse and critique the experiences they have had with previous clients. Furthermore, it helps students to elucidate their client interventions and reasoning skills and to compare these with best practices. The focus of this module is to prepare final year students for submission of their case studies which contribute to the final year mark in Senior Sophister year. Details of the Case studies formats and requirements are included in this module description.

**OT4030 Ethical reasoning, Clinical Governance and Leadership**

This course aims to further student’s knowledge, to develop critical thinking skills and advance their capacity to evaluate ethical considerations for practice. As practitioners they must make complex decisions which involve ethical decision making processes and reasoning. This course aims to enable student’s understanding of how leadership and clinical governance impacts upon the delivery of health care services.

**OT4032 Evaluative Practice – Bringing Evidence to Practice**

Competency to practice requires that the entry level graduate performs in an evidence based, effective and efficient manner that is fitting with contemporary healthcare context and climate. This course builds on the knowledge, skills and attitudes students developed in Junior Sophister year. It provides students with the opportunity to reflect on evidence based practice within occupational therapy practice. It focuses on bringing evidence to practice and requires students to bring course work to publication standard.

**OT4035 Practice Education**

“Practice education is a process which involves a partnership between the practice educator and the student in the practice setting. It offers an opportunity for “rehearsal of, and reflection on, practice.” (Alsop & Ryan, 1996, pg. 3). It facilitates the integration of theory based learning with practice in graded developmental stages throughout the course. This is based on the Guidelines for good practice in practice education (Therapy Project Office, 2008).