MODULE OUTLINES FOR SENIOR FRESHMAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Conditions in Occupational Therapy

Adult Physical and Children

This component of the module aims to introduce the student to common conditions, diagnosis and diseases of childhood and adulthood. Students will develop an understanding of the symptoms, predisposing factors, prognosis and clinical presentation of clients with various conditions that are typically encountered in occupational therapy practice. This knowledge will form the basis for future study in Occupational Therapy Applied Modules and also will prepare the student for practice placement. Emphasis is placed understanding how conditions impact on the person’s performance and participation as well as an understanding of the underlying disruption of body structures and functions.

Adult Mental Health

This module component aims to introduce the student to common conditions, diagnosis and disorders of adult mental health. Students will develop an understanding of the symptoms, predisposing factors, prognosis and clinical presentation of clients with various conditions that are typically encountered in occupational therapy practice. This knowledge will form the basis for future study in Occupational Therapy Applied Modules and also will prepare the student for practice placement. There is a strong emphasis on understanding mental health and its impact not only on performance but on the emotional impact upon the individual. Students will also examine the law and policies in relation to mental and how mental health services are delivered in the community.

Occupational Therapy with Older Adults (1)

Ireland’s ageing population will continue to grow dramatically over the next quarter of a century. These changes, coupled with the fact that we are living longer than ever before, create increasing challenges for our society and for our health services. Ageing is an area of huge growth in health care and in particular for the role of occupational therapists. How can the occupational therapist ensure that years added to life are as active and healthy as possible? How can occupational therapy harness potential in later life? This module aims to equip occupational therapy students with a foundation of knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to work in the multifaceted and complex field of ageing

Social and Personality Psychology

The module aims to provide a broad survey of the main topics, theories and research methods in social and personality psychology. It will consider modern scientific and theoretical approaches to personality and social processes with a particular focus on what they can tell us about human nature. Students will gain knowledge in the bio-psychosocial perspective on human behaviour
including health-related behaviour, the formation of the self and the importance of self-esteem to personal development, the interface of motivation and emotion and the social context of both, the basis of attitudes, the roots of prejudice, and the technology of attitude change. It will also focus on communication and other health profession related social psychological processes such as compliance, conformity, groups and non-verbal communication.

Research Methods and Statistics

This module aims to introduce the second year student to the basic concepts of the empirical research process; to develop basic skills in collecting empirical information and an appreciation for objectivity, reflexivity and scientific method. The Statistics component of the course will introduce the basic concepts and techniques of statistical analysis, providing a grounding in statistics and the use of SPSS in research. The basis in the principles and methodology of research and the skills of statistical data analysis that this course provides will enable the student to proceed to more advanced research classes which have a specific focus on the development of group research projects.

Disabilities Studies

The module aims to develop the student’s ability to critically evaluate issues related to the role of culture (values and attitudes) from a disability studies and occupational therapy perspective. The issues are examined in the context of service delivery for the person with intellectual disabilities, in supporting participation in a meaningful and healthy lifestyle. This module builds on knowledge gained in Disability Studies module in first year. The module reviews the historical background to identification of people as having intellectual disabilities, and the subsequent development of models of care. Care models, the social model of disability, person centered planning and advocacy is explored in the context of occupational justice and occupational deprivation. The contribution of occupational therapy, such as in activity analysis, teaching and learning strategies, environmental adaptations are explored so as to support occupational engagement and health lifestyle.

Study of Occupation Practice and Review

Underpinning this module is the principle that people are occupational beings performing their occupations within a multilayered environmental context. This course builds on the Study of Occupation course in junior freshmen year. Through facilitating a person/s with disabilities or of social disadvantage to engage in occupations that have meaning for them, students will better understand the relationship between the person, environment and occupation and their impact on occupational choice and performance.

Senior Freshman 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, p 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). This module accounts for 333 hours of practice education and includes a preparation course focusing on knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for professional practice and nine weeks of placement in a practice education site.

Occupational Therapy Theories and Interventions: Adult Physical (1): Rheumatology and Orthopaedics

The purpose of this module is for students to acquire knowledge and skills in occupational therapy practice of clients with rheumatologic and orthopaedic conditions. They will examine the occupational performance implications of rheumatological and orthopaedic conditions on self-care, productivity and leisure activities and apply and adapt this knowledge to case scenarios. Students will acquire knowledge of the range of occupational therapy interventions in all stages of an occupational therapy process from referral through to discharge as well as a variety of theoretical approaches to guide the OT process. They will apply this knowledge to a range of case scenarios typically encountered in occupational therapy practice.

Advanced Anatomy and Physiology

This module will provide the basic anatomy and physiology of specific systems of the body that underpins comprehension and understanding of normal function, altered function, care and intervention. Students will be expected to describe the normal structure and functioning of the systems of the body (nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal, haematological, immune and endocrine).

Foundations of Disease and Pharmacological Intervention

This module aims to provide the underlying scientific knowledge that underpins comprehension and understanding of disease, care and pharmacological intervention in some of the major systems of the body. The module will focus on general principles of pathology and pharmacology and signs and symptoms of some of the main disorders of the respiratory, cardiovascular, haematological, immune, gastrointestinal, nervous and endocrine systems. The module will also outline the main groups of drugs used in the treatment of these systems including the mode of action, desired effects and side effects of sample drug groups used in the respiratory, cardiovascular, haematological, immune, gastrointestinal, nervous and endocrine systems.

Professional Development

This module focuses on facilitating the student to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes related to practical areas of occupational therapy practice. It consists of three components: Communication Skills, Upper Limb Intervention – Splinting and Assistive Technology, Seating & Wheeled Mobility.

Communication Skills
This component of the module is offered in Semester 2 and builds on the communication courses offered in Junior Freshman year. This course also sets the groundwork for practice education (Level 1), and is required for other professional development courses. This communications skills course aims to continue the process of fostering personal/professional development from the first year of the course. It also aims to teach students the importance of communication for effective therapeutic relationships with service users.

**Upper Limb Intervention – Splinting**

This component combines theory and knowledge in the applied skill of splinting. The student will acquire basic skills in the construction, design and evaluation of basic upper limb splints commonly fabricated in occupational therapy clinical practice. The student will, in addition, consider the assessment of a person for splinting and begin to use clinical reasoning and problem solving to select and fabricate appropriate splints for various types of hand injuries and conditions. Students will develop critical appraisal skills to make judgments regarding the splints they fabricate to ensure that they can practice safely and can make judgments regarding when to seek advice or refer to another professional.

**Assistive Technology, Seating and Wheeled Mobility**

Assistive technology, seating and wheeled mobility provision is complex and requires a user focus which considers the person, the environment and the occupation. This course introduces the student to the potential use and value of assistive technology to persons with disabilities and the older person and the impact that these technologies can have on occupational performance. It introduces the students to seating, postural management and wheeled mobility. It considers the enablers and barriers to assistive technology, seating and wheeled mobility use from the perspective of the person, the environment and the occupation. It will be considered regarding frameworks and models of service delivery and contexts of assistive technology application.

**Developmental Psychology**

An introduction to the study of the development of children and adolescents is provided in this module. Students will learn about the changes that occur across different domains of development throughout infancy, childhood and adolescence and about developmental theories, themes and concepts, and methods involved in developmental research. Critical issues and frameworks that shape how we understand and study development, such as the interacting roles of nature and nurture in development, debates about continuity and discontinuity in development, the influence of the socio-cultural context on development, the role of children in their own development, and the interaction of the social, cognitive and biological domains in development will be included.