



Inter-Institutional Collaboration to benefit student learning: A scenario in graduate education

Marilyn E. Miller, PhD, PT, GCS

The increase in older drivers renders impairments associated with aging to be an increasingly important public health and safety concern. Older adults often experience a decline in cognition, vision, and motor skills required to complete many of the challenges associated with driving. The challenges that are present with older drivers require a multifaceted approach by health professionals. Health professionals receive little training in assessing older drivers and welcome additional instruction.

Occupational and Physical Therapists are in a unique role, in which they can assist in the identification and rehabilitation of impairments. The collaboration between UCSD and USAHS is preparing students with the knowledge and skills to assess older persons for driving abilities.

Each term brought new challenges as the Medical School program grew in community offerings, while there was an expansion of the MOT and DPT student cohorts.



Dr. Linda Hill, MD

treds.ucsd.edu

University of California, San Diego - Family and Preventive Medicine

Nicolaas van den Heever, OTD, BOT, OTR/L

WEST COAST
UNIVERSITY

949-783-4800 | FAX: 949-783-4801
151 Innovation Drive | Irvine, CA 92617

Est. 1909

Only the following questions were asked on all assessments:

I feel confident in my ability to screen Older Patients for Age-Related Driving Impairments.

Result: 54% Agree or Strongly Agree

As a result of this training, my knowledge about impairment that can affect older drivers has increased by ____%

Result: 83% of MOT/DPT students stated their knowledge about impairments that can affect older drivers has **increased by at least 50%**

As a result of this training, my knowledge about California's mandated reporting laws has increased by ____%

Result: 88% of MOT/DPT students stated their knowledge about California's mandated reporting requirements **increased by at least 50%.**

The Gerontology course for MOT and DPT students embraced a blended online format of instruction, and the UCSD TREDs program also adopted online learning modules.

The UCSD TREDs program allows the USAHS MOT and DPT students online access to the TREDs training for ARDDs screening. The generous UCSD TREDs faculty also provide an on site LAB for students to apply the screening tools in role-play scenarios. The current content delivery allows the TREDs program to be available to the Gerontology course offering for other USAHS campus locations; and has the potential to be accessed by other institutions of higher education offering courses in Gerontology.

Students at the USAHS campus often site the ARDDs training and application of those skills in a final reflection paper in the Gerontology course. Thus the message of older driver safety appears to be disseminated by students in personal as well as clinical application.