Sexuality Based Content in an Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Curriculum: A Content Analysis

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Sexuality Based Content in an Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Curriculum: A Content Analysis

Victoria Ontiberos, M.Ed., Steven Gerardi, PhD, OTD, MSS, OTR, and Elizabeth DeLuca, OTD, OTR

BACKGROUND

Sexuality is multifaceted and is developed across the lifespan. While the occupations related to sexuality are within the occupational therapy (OT) scope of practice, the literature does not address how sexual activity is being taught in entry-level OT education programs (Lohman et al., 2017; Whitney & Fox, 2017).

METHODS

The content analysis (CA), focused on sexuality content, was adapted from published methods (Gottipati & Shankararaman, 2018). The CA, and created educational materials were informed by Bloom’s taxonomy of learning, ACOTE Section B standards (AOTA, 2018), and notional sexuality specific standards created for the CA.

Curricular Matrix Development
1. Review course syllabi/curriculum in all OTD program courses, of the Fall 2019 USAHS OTD curriculum and extract sexuality specific data for analysis.
2. Raw data extraction
3. Develop sexuality standards (Table 1)
4. Develop a curricular matrix
5. Chart the raw data within curricular matrix.

RESULTS

Sexuality Content Delivery Methods
- Readings = 58.85%, Online Units = 40.33%, Assignments = 0.82%

Most Frequently Identified Competencies:
- B.1.1.SS, B.3.2.SS, B.3.5.SS

Courses With Most Sexuality Content:
1. Clinical Applications of OT in Pediatrics/Adolescence
2. Clinical Applications of OT in Psychosocial and Community Settings
3. Clinical Applications in Adulthood
4. Clinical Applications in Geriatrics

PROBLEM

There is a lack of knowledge regarding the extent in which sexuality has been addressed in entry-level OT curriculum at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USAHS).

PURPOSE

a) To conduct a content analysis of the USAHS OTD curriculum to identify content gaps regarding addressing sexuality in practice; and
b) To develop sexuality-based educational materials as a resource for the faculty for potential inclusion in future courses.

Sexuality-Based Material Development
1. Identification of courses for sexuality-based material implementation.
2. Faculty meetings to identify needs.
3. Development of lecture-based materials, student resource handouts, and vignettes/case studies based on needs.

REFERENCES:

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACOTE Section B Standard</th>
<th>Sexuality Specific Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.1.1 Human Body, Development, and Behavior</td>
<td>The structure and function of the human body to include sexual and reproductive functioning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.3.2 Interaction of Occupation and Activity</td>
<td>Human sexual development throughout the lifespan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.3.5.SS</td>
<td>Analyze and evaluate the effects of disease processes including heritable diseases, genetic conditions, mental illness, disability, trauma, and injury on sexuality.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Content Focus</th>
<th>Method of Delivery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domain of Occupational Therapy (OCT3140)</td>
<td>Sexuality and the Domains of Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>Online Unit Voiceover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions Impacting Occupational Performance (OCT3350)</td>
<td>Overview of Pediatric Rehabilitation and Sexuality</td>
<td>In-Person Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Conditions Impacting Sexuality</td>
<td>Health, Wellness, and Sexuality</td>
<td>Online Unit Voiceover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Applications of Occupational Therapy in Psychosocial and Community Settings (OCT3550)</td>
<td>Sexuality and Pediatric Rehabilitation: OT Role</td>
<td>In-Person Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Applications in Pediatrics/Adolescence (OCT3450)</td>
<td>Let’s Talk About Sex: Understanding the Impact of Brain Injury on Sexuality and Sexual Function</td>
<td>In-Person Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Applications in Geriatrics (OCT3450)</td>
<td>Sexuality and Cognition/Psychosocial Issues in Later Life</td>
<td>In-Person Presentation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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