Weaving Curricular Themes into Fieldwork Education

Aaron Eakman, PhD, OTR/L
Program Director and Assistant Professor
Curricular Themes

- ...reflect the key elements of an occupational therapy program’s mission, philosophy and goals.
- ...are woven throughout the ISU OT program courses.
- ...are essential aspects of fieldwork education; supporting the ISU OT program curriculum.
Occupation

• Day to day activities that make up our life.
• Participation in personally meaningful activities contributes to health and well-being.
• Therapeutic occupation serves as a central medium for maximizing occupational performance.
Diversity

- Personal differences in culture and ethnicity, interests, roles and abilities.
- Sensitivity to diversity enhances opportunities for client-centered occupational therapy.
Rural Health

- Maximizing health and well-being can be challenging within rural settings.
- Students develop knowledge and skills to support occupational therapy practice in rural areas.
Interdisciplinary Practice

- Maximum client benefit is often achieved with interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Students develop an appreciation for the mutual benefits inherent in working with other disciplines.
Reflective Practice

- Effective clinical practice requires a deep understanding of personal strengths and weaknesses.
- Fostering effective professional behaviors is supported through “generic abilities.”
Evidence-Based Practice

- Research evidence, clinical knowledge and reasoning are the essential components.
- Both quantitative and qualitative evidence can enrich effective clinical practice.
Weaving Curricular Themes into Your Fieldwork Instruction

- Occupation
- Diversity
- Rural Health
- Interdisciplinary Practice
- Reflective Practice
- Evidenced-Based Practice