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Curriculum Vitae

Summary of Qualifications

Academic experience includes program oversight, design, development, implementation, accreditation, and re-accreditation. Instructional experience in both undergraduate and graduate education. Clinical Management experience is comprised of the effective and efficient operations of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation services in a long-term acute care hospital and sub-acute rehabilitation-multi-site facilities. Clinical experience in working with adults of various ages including geriatrics, Acute Care, and Inpatient Rehabilitation in a Level I Trauma hospital; Sub-acute Rehabilitation, Skilled Nursing Facility, Home Health Care, and Adult Day Health Care Program.

Education:

Post-Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy, specialty in Teaching and Learning, University of St. Augustine, St Augustine, FL, 2021

- **Capstone:** The Effects of Intraprofessional Education on Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy Assistant Students' Perceptions of Collaborative Practice Skills
- **Abstract:** The purpose of the project was to identify and determine if participating in up to two virtual intraprofessional collaborative educational activities changes OT and OTA students' perceptions of the essential skills for collaborative practice.

B.S. /M.S. Occupational Therapy, University at Buffalo, State University of New York at Buffalo, 2007

- **Thesis:** Effects of a Modified Constraint Induced Movement Therapy Program on Upper Extremity Function in Outpatient Stroke Rehabilitation: Pilot Study
- **Abstract:** The purpose of the study was to determine if participating in a Modified Constraint Induced Movement Therapy (MCIMT) program will have an effect on upper extremity functional outcomes in individuals with chronic stroke. The data collected from the pilot study provided an emerging MCIMT program at a local outpatient clinic with useful outcome information.

A.A.S., Occupational Therapy Assistant, Erie Community College, 2000

A.A., Liberal Arts & Social Science, Erie Community College, 1997

Research:

Fall prevention with Community Dwellers living in Erie County, Visiting Nursing Association and University at Buffalo, State University of New York at Buffalo

Teaching Experience:

- Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Director, Associate Professor, March 2013- present, Parker University
- Instructor, 2009 – 2013, Master of Occupational Therapy, University at Buffalo, State University of New York at Buffalo

Courses Taught:

Principles of Occupational Therapy

This course for Occupational Therapy Assistant Students examined the role of occupational therapy in health care, and community-based and educational systems. Topics include history and philosophical principles, occupation in daily life, the Occupational Therapy Framework: Domain and Process, Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, current and emerging practice areas, and roles of the registered occupational therapist and the certified occupational therapy assistant.

Human Structure and Function in Occupational Therapy

This course will present the basic principles of biomechanics and kinesiology related to human movement and occupational performance. Emphasis is on the musculoskeletal system including skeletal structure, muscles and nerves, and biomechanical assessment procedures. Students also are introduced to muscle testing and goniometric testing procedures.

Occupational Performance of Adulthood

This course is the study of occupational performance of adults with physical disabilities, emphasis on musculoskeletal disorders. Topics include medical management, theory, frames of reference, evaluation tools, intervention and treatment techniques, PAMs, and splinting.

Neurology in Occupational Therapy

This course for Occupational Therapy Assistant Students, focused on the study of occupational performance of adults with physical disabilities, emphasis on neurological disorders. Topics include medical management, frames of reference, evaluation tools, intervention, and treatment techniques.

Therapeutic Interventions I

This course for Occupational Therapy Assistant Students, focused on the development of observation skills; assessment; documentation, and teaching, adapting, and grading of self-care, work, and play/leisure with adults with physical disabilities. Emphasis on awareness of activity demands, contexts, occupations or activities used as therapeutic interventions, treatment techniques, and equipment to maximize participation in meaningful occupations, improve independence, prevent deformity, and ensure safety with this population. Additional emphasis on the role of the Occupational Therapy Assistant in the OT process.

Health Care Management in Occupational Therapy

This course explores the role of the occupational therapy assistant in health care delivery. Topics include documentation, funding and reimbursement, credentialing, professional issues, occupational therapy standards and ethics, health care team role delineation, and basic management of resources, including environment, personnel, and budget, preparation activities for Level II fieldwork, licensure and certification, employment acquisition, and development of a professional development plan.

Special Topics in OTA - Online

Topics address recently identified current events, skills, knowledges, and/or attitudes and behaviors pertinent to the technology or occupation and relevant to the professional development of the student. This course was designed to be repeated multiple times to improve student proficiency.

Essentials of Medical Terminology - Online

This introductory course includes the basic structure of medical words, including prefixes, suffixes, roots, and combining forms and plurals. Topics include correct pronunciation, spelling and definitions. At the completion of the course, students will be able to: Define, pronounce, and spell medical terms with the use of medical references as resource tools. Utilize terms in context; analyze medical terms; examine word origin and structure through the introduction of prefixes, suffixes, root words, plurals abbreviations and symbols.

Physical Disabilities Practice

This course for fourth year Occupational Therapy students addresses the role of the occupational therapist in restoring function to patients with physical limitation or dysfunction. The nature of the subject matter of this course is both theoretical and applied, distributed through lecture and laboratory components. A segment of this course provides students with hands-on clinical experiences under supervision. The course consists of the evaluation and treatment principles of physical dysfunctions including Cerebral Vascular Accident (CVA), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Spinal Cord Injury (SCI), Burns, Amputations, Neurodegenerative diseases, Cardio-pulmonary dysfunction, Oncology, and Orthopedic injuries.

Occupational Therapy practice Skills III/Application of Therapeutic Techniques

This course for fourth year Occupational Therapy students serves to develop knowledge of occupational therapy practice skills that integrate with treatment of adult physical dysfunction. Course material is delivered through lectures, laboratory demonstrations and site visits. Topics covered consist of interventions related to adult occupational roles, including occupation- based activity, Activities of Daily Living (ADL), wheelchair evaluation and positioning, patient handling, ADL mobility, transfers, bed mobility, driver evaluation, acute care, environmental assessment and adaptation, complimentary therapeutic interventions, physical agent modalities, wellness, patient/family education, and community access.

Principles of Occupational Therapy with the Physically Disabled

This graduate level course is designed to familiarize students with, and develop an appreciation for, contemporary theories in occupational therapy, clinical practice and research in the physical dysfunction domain. Thru article review and discussion, students have the opportunity to critically examine OT practices in terms of the underlying theoretical principles, assumptions and beliefs, current evaluation/measurement tools, and research evidence (evidence-based practice and outcomes) for clinical effectiveness. The course provides advanced practitioners to have an understanding of the dynamic relationship between theory, research, and clinical practice.

Work related Experiences

***Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Director, Associate Professor - Parker University, Dallas, TX-
March 2014 – present***

Program oversight to all areas of operations: curriculum design/development; accreditation; strategic planning; program evaluation/assessment; budget management; interdepartmental collaboration; selection, supervision, evaluation of faculty/staff; professional development; policy/procedure development; and in-person/online course instruction

- Collaborate with administration on program development, design, and implementation
- Lead programmatic accreditation/re-accreditation process, awarded maximum accreditation period
- Develop and maintain a functional curriculum according to approved design, ensuring coordination of both didactic and clinical education components of the program
- Responsible for program and curriculum evaluation/assessment, analyzing and reporting program outcomes
- Determine, establish, and implement department goals, strategic plan
- Resource management; develop and manage departmental budget and expenditures
- Selection and supervision of program faculty and staff, create strategies for professional development
- Evaluate faculty performance to maintain teaching effectiveness
- Develop and implement program strategies for student academic success and retention
- Curriculum Council Member
- Student Success Committee Member
- Academic Assessment Council Co-Chair
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Member
- Contributor in Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) regional reaccreditation processes
- Academic and Professional Standards Committee Member
- Ensure programmatic support of university strategic plan, goals, and incentives
- Facilitate community outreach incentives and research

- Program marketing and promotion

Director of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation – LifeCare Hospitals of Dallas, Dallas, TX - March 2013 – March 2014

- Oversee daily operations of rehabilitation service delivery to medically complex patients
- Clinical supervision of Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapists
- Coordinating with the interdisciplinary team regarding patient plan of care and satisfaction
- Policy and procedure development, Staff in-servicing
- Program development, growth, and improvement
- Promote and maintain standards of care, safety, quality assurance and regulatory compliance
- Monitor department budget, third-party reimbursement, establish capital budgets for rehabilitation

Director of Rehabilitation - Harbour/Hawthorn Health Multi-Care Centers, Buffalo, NY- November 2011 – February 2013

- Oversee multi-site rehabilitative services including direct therapy services to patients
- Provide clinical supervision of Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapists
- Monitor admissions, treatment schedules, MDS data and assessment periods, Case Mix Index
- Coordinating with the interdisciplinary team regarding patient care and Discharge planning
- Policy and procedure development, improvement, Staff in-servicing
- Development of nursing rehabilitation program
- Quality Assurance, Risk Management, Safety Committee
- Monitor Rehabilitation department budget
- Student clinical fieldwork coordination

Instructor - University at Buffalo, State University of New York at Buffalo - Buffalo, NY August 2009 – February 2013

- Provide competency-based instruction to Occupational Therapy students in areas of Physical Disabilities and Occupational Therapy practice skills
- Design and deliver class instruction through the development of instructional plans to meet course competencies, the development of activities which support lesson objectives
- Evaluation of learning by providing instruction which fosters competency and established student performance criteria and evaluation.
- Establish a classroom environment conducive to learning and student involvement
- Promote student success by showing flexibility in style and work schedule as well as exhibiting a passion for teaching and students and engaging students in the learning process.
- Manage the learning environment through keeping accurate records, submitting grades and other reports, and enforcing school/campus academic and attendance policies.
- Relate to professional/life/industry experience to learning by the continuation of professional/technical skills development, the introduction of industry perspective into courses, and the active awareness of professional/industry trends and opportunities
- Assist in conducting University research

Occupational Therapist - Visiting Nurses Association, Williamsville, NY- January 2011- November 2011

- Evaluation and treatment of patients with various diagnoses – Spinal Cord Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury, CVA, Amputations, Cardiac and Neurological dysfunction, Joint replacements, and generalized weakness
- Training individuals in areas of Activities of Daily Living (ADL/I-ADL), Functional mobility, Cognitive training, Visual/Perceptual assessment and training, splint fabrication, functional kitchen assessments
- Develop, review and update individualized plans of care
- Coordinating with the interdisciplinary team regarding patient care and Discharge planning
- Evaluate, modify, issue appropriate feeding and adaptive equipment
- Recommend Durable Medical Equipment, Wheelchair assessment/justification, and Home modification

- Fall prevention program
- Medicare/Medicaid documentation of treatment sessions and billing
- Family training and Patient education

Occupational Therapist - Erie County Medical Center, Buffalo, NY - June 2007 – February 2011

- Evaluation and treatment of patients with various diagnoses at a level I Trauma
- Training individuals in areas of Activities of Daily Living (ADL/I-ADL), Functional mobility, Cognitive training, Visual/Perceptual assessment, and training
- Develop, review, and update individualized plans of care
- Coordinating with the interdisciplinary team regarding patient care and Discharge planning
- Evaluate, modify, issue appropriate feeding and adaptive equipment, splint fabrication
- Recommend Durable Medical Equipment, wheelchair assessment/ justification, and home modification
- Home evaluation and functional kitchen assessments
- Medicare/Medicaid documentation of treatment sessions and billing
- In-servicing and training of Nursing and Rehab support staff
- Family training and Patient education

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant/ Occupational Therapist - Episcopal Church Home and Affiliates/ Schofield Residence, Buffalo, NY- October 2001 – September 2011

- Restorative and maintenance Occupational therapy treatment to individuals with various diagnoses
- Training individuals in areas of Activities of Daily Living (ADL/I-ADL)
- Activity analysis and assessment
- Review and update individualized plans of care
- Coordinating with the interdisciplinary team regarding patient care
- Modify and issue adaptive equipment, DME, and splint consultation
- Meal observation/feeding assessments
- Participated in wheelchair clinic and wheelchair positioning
- Completed Home visits
- Medicare/Medicaid documentation of treatment sessions and billing
- MDS quarterly documentation and annual screens
- Supervision of OTA students