

Module 4: Expectations and Achievements of Capstone Project

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Post- Professional Doctoral Studies Occupational Therapy At Shawnee State University

September 6, 2024

OTD 7001

Introduction to Doctoral Studies

As I embark on the coursework and requirements needed to complete the Shawnee State University Online Doctoral Program and the Capstone Project I find myself going through all of the emotions of when you are starting something new, excitement about pursuing my goals, nervousness as I know this will be a challenging process and gratitude for my family, friends and colleagues who have been encouraging and my own personal cheerleaders and blessed for the financial stability to be able to pursue my goal of achieving my doctoral degree. When I reflect on the Cerone's article, It is my hope that this endeavor will provide those "experiences that provide learning are never just isolated events in time" and that I can "connect what they have learned from current experiences to those in the past as well as see possible future implications" (Cerone, 2018). and become an OTD that utilizes those past clinical experiences to future quests for the betterment of the field of occupational therapy.

Throughout the coursework in OTD 7000, we have taken a deep dive back into the models of occupational therapy and reviewed the OTPF to examine what models and frameworks do we utilize in our clinical practice. I was able to correlate the similarities of the MOHO and The Ecological Model of Human Occupation to The Pyramid Model and how we structure presentations to educators. I hope to improve my design and implementations of the frameworks along with evidence-based practice to meet the best needs of my clients (Hinojosa et.al. 2017).

Learning more about adult learners and lifelong learning, we delved into how those educational and clinical experiences shape our trajectories and shaped our ways that we are going to use your skill sets of strengths to complete the program and the barriers that may impact our path as well as some skills that we may need to hone in on to become more efficient, proficient, and organization and goal oriented. (Cerone, 2008).

The Capstone Project will allow me as an OTD student to challenge my research, clinical and use of evidence-based practice to address real-world issues with an OT lens. I expect to be more proficient with using evidence-based practice, frameworks and working with the OTPF-4, research methods, and collecting data and transposing it into a real-world application (AOTA, 2017). With the help of faculty, I hope to embark on a project that will be meaningful to preschool educators to improve classroom outcomes for all children and provide strategies to teachers to deal with complexities of challenging behaviors.

Another important learning component of the OTD program is the development of leadership skills and then utilizing the skillsets learned into clinical, research and interdisciplinary teams to further the enhancement of the field of OT. This will showcase the importance of the OT profession in a variety of professions as well as integrating the field of occupational therapy into communities and non-traditional place settings to forward our profession to align with Vision 2025 and ongoing practices (AOTA, 2020).

In conclusion, I hope to continue to find joy in my lifelong learning journey and never lose the ability to be curious and want to know and learn more. I am confident that at the end of this learning journey, I will become a better leader, clinician and agent for change.

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