



Postgraduate Study in Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy in Primary and Population Health

There are significant opportunities for occupational therapists to work within a primary health, health promotion or population health focus, using a range of strategies. In this course students will use occupation-based thinking and notions of upstream and downstream services to identify and develop possible primary health or population based services, related to their own interests.

Such services are currently still more proposed than practiced. Therefore, to be funded, new programmes will have to be consistent with current policy priorities, and meet established needs for specific populations in a defined community.

We will draw on previous changes and developments in the profession to examine the diverse considerations that influence emerging practice including relationships, positioning, planning, and marketing to explore funding and programme possibilities. The course will help students position themselves to provide such services.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss key differences and similarities between individual and population focussed occupational therapy and occupation based services
- Interpret population health and other relevant statistics for a selected community
- Identify and justify potential occupation-based interventions to meet specific or specified community and or population needs
- Recognise factors associated with changes in practice sectors and develop strategies to enhance the introduction of occupational perspectives into primary health and population-based services

INDICATIVE CONTENT

- Review key concepts using both international and local policy documents
- Use existing population-based datasets to examine and justify priority setting in health services.
- Draw on writings from both occupational science and occupational therapy that focus on occupation as a human right.
- Use theory to look at the range of considerations an occupational therapist moving to develop new models of practice or services will need to take into account.
- Overview literature from organisational theory and practice will be used to focus therapists' knowledge of planning around strategic and business planning towards the development of an occupation-based service in a specific community with a defined need.

ASSESSMENT

The assessment asks students to design a primary or population-based service for a specific community using occupation-based interventions

SEMESTER DATES: 25 July—18 November 2011

TENTATIVE FEE: \$1094.70

LECTURER PROFILE

Dr Linda Wilson— PhD, MSc (Rehabilitation Studies), NDAEdT (L6), DHA, NZROT.



Linda is an occupational therapist with many years practice, management and academic experience. She has a long-standing interest in changes in the occupational therapy profession, whether around the knowledge of the profession (e.g. occupation as our focus), the nature of practice (both where we practice and who we work with) and our attitudes particularly in relation to Treaty issues. Her doctorate specifically looked at the way in which roles in the profession have changed and that study underpins the work of this course.

* Course offered subject to minimum enrolments

Who do I contact for more information and an enrolment pack?

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