Orthosis Fabrication Elective Course for Belmont University’s OTD Program
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Mission & Vision of OTD Program
❖ The School of Occupational Therapy provides comprehensive graduate education within a Christian, learning environment to enable students from diverse backgrounds to positively impact the community at large and enhance the human condition through appreciation of diversity, problem-solving, and utility of meaningful and purposeful occupations.
❖ The School of Occupational Therapy’s vision is to offer a comprehensive education to graduate students in a Christian environment, preparing them to become and continue to be occupational therapy practitioners who are committed to evidence and occupation based practice, life-long learning, service and advocacy.

Identified Needs of OTD Program
❖ The option for an orthosis fabrication elective course to provide additional exposure and hands-on experience for OTD students
❖ Recent evidence-based research demonstrates that hands-on experience is beneficial for the dissemination of learning in occupational therapy graduate programs (Coker, 2010; Fisher, 2000).
❖ Orthosis fabrication is a primary skill set of occupational therapists that is used in many practice settings for a wide variety of diagnoses and goals (AOTA, 2014)
❖ Serve as marketing platform for prospective students
❖ Further educate on the materials required for fabrication of orthoses

Goals of the Experiential Component
❖ Explore the role of educator in occupational therapy, specifically within course development
❖ Design all course materials for the orthosis fabrication elective course based on current textbooks, evidence-based practice, and direct communication with practicing occupational therapists
❖ Create and administer survey to current OTD students to assess quality assurance of the proposed course to gain opinions and feedback

Outcomes
As a result of my experiential component, Belmont University’s Doctorate of Occupational Therapy program will receive the following materials:

❖ Syllabus with tentative course schedule
❖ Introductory information on basic orthosis fabrication and biomechanics
❖ Weekly pre-class handouts on the orthosis that will be fabricated, which includes goals of the design and common diagnoses that might indicate the need for that particular orthosis
❖ Weekly orthosis “check-offs” for instructor evaluation
❖ Lecture PowerPoint on pre-fabricated orthosis options commonly used in clinical practice today
❖ Pattern Manual for student reference
❖ Chart of all materials needed to purchase for 14 total students (the cap number for the elective course)
❖ Final exam

Current OTD Students’ Opinions
❖ Third Year and First Year Students in the OTD program were provided with a course description, course schedule, and samples of class materials to review before participating in a survey.
❖ Third Year Students were asked:
  Do you think that the elective course would have been useful if the opportunity had been presented to you during the OTD curriculum?
❖ First Year Students were asked:
  If the opportunity was presented to you, would you enroll in the elective course?

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References Available Upon Request