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Project Title:

Engaging occupational therapy students on Level II fieldwork through the use of synchronous online discussion groups.

Project Abstract:

Is real time face to face discussion with classmates and faculty members of value to students learning during Level II fieldwork? The purpose of this project is to explore the usefulness of Google Hangout as an online synchronous video discussion tool. The investigators hope to enhance student learning during fieldwork experiences and foster community, critical thinking, and self-reflection skills. This project would provide a direct assessment of critical thinking and reflection which are key outcomes that are in alignment with the Department of Occupational Therapy's program goals. Project activities will include creation of a synchronous video based discussion group for students while on Level II Fieldwork with a faculty mentor, assessment of faculty and student participation, as well as analysis of learning outcomes and feedback from surveys and focus groups. The results of this project will contribute to best practices for the use of technology in occupational therapy education and other health related professions in generating and deepening reflection and critical thinking in students while participating in clinical experiences.

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