

Project Title: Assessment of Video Discussion as a Learning Experience to Develop Students' Verbal Communication Skills in Distance Education

Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to explore, develop and assess the use of video discussion as a learning experience to develop students' verbal communication skills in distance-based professional education. This learning experience has the potential to be used across curricula in the health professions. **Method:** Case-based scenarios will be designed to develop students' verbal communication skills with patients, family members, peers, or other health professionals in the simulated context of clinical practice of occupational therapy and physical therapy utilizing video discussion technology available in a learning management system. A grading rubric will be developed for use by faculty and teaching assistants to grade the video recordings. Focus group interviews with faculty, teaching assistants and students will be used to evaluate and modify the learning experience and assessment rubric for future use. **Results:** The results will provide faculty involved in distance education with a learning experience and assessment tool for use in developing students' verbal communication skills in distance education. **Implications:** Utilization of video discussion may be a useful method to develop verbal communication skills for students in distance-based programs who lack the opportunity for face-to-face interactions in classroom. This may be expanded for use in learning experiences across the curricula as well as in other programs.

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