

## In Pursuit of An Authentic Opportunity for Occupational Therapy Students' Clinical Skill Acquisition in Behavioral Health Service Provision

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### Abstract:

The use of simulation in occupational therapy didactic education is not a new concept, but relatively young compared to its utility in other healthcare professions. The current pandemic has placed restrictions on many facets of daily life, education notwithstanding, forcing faculty creativity to facilitate student's clinical knowledge and skill acquisition. Healthcare students' didactic coursework was altered, and clinical experiences were cancelled or delayed in response to directed health measures. Academicians had little time to react, pivot, and proceed forward with new methods of teaching and learning. However, as the saying goes "necessity is the mother of invention" and the quest for finding a quality and affordable online simulation tool culminated in identifying one possible fit to meet the occupational therapy mental health course objectives. This project will explore one virtual simulation tool's effect on student skill acquisition and knowledge translation in the context of a behavioral health simulation.