



The Value of Studying Occupational Therapy through an Ignatian Lens

A Comparison of the Core Values of OT and Creighton's Ignatian Values

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Intro to OT and the Values

Occupational Therapy (OT) is a holistic approach to rehabilitative healthcare that helps people of all ages engage in the activities that they want and need to do (AOTA, n.d.). The American Occupational Therapy Association has identified seven core values and attitudes of the profession: altruism, equality, freedom, justice, dignity, truth, and prudence (AOTA, 1993). Creighton University's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions promotes five Ignatian values: Finding God in all things, *Cura Personalis*, *Magis*, men and women for and with others, and faith that does justice (Creighton University, n.d.). Creighton's mission of educating students through the Ignatian values provides OT students a distinct advantage for understanding the core values of their profession because of the overlap between the two.

Finding God in all Things

This value invites students to recognize God's presence in all interactions (Creighton University, n.d.). Inherent to finding God in all things are the AOTA's values of equality and dignity. Equality calls practitioners to respect the differences across those they serve and approach each interaction with "fairness and

impartiality" (AOTA, 1993). Dignity invites OTs to recognize the "inherent worth and uniqueness of each person" (AOTA, 1993). When OTs see their clients as equal and treat them with dignity, they can see clients as God sees them.

Cura Personalis

Cura Personalis is a Latin phrase meaning "care for the whole person" (Creighton University, n.d.). In school, OTs learn to treat the physical, social, and emotional aspects of all clients. To do this well, OTs recognize the inherent dignity of each person, a core value of the profession (AOTA, 1993). As such, OTs must understand the core value of freedom, allowing each client to reflect on which activities are most meaningful to them in order to exercise choice in their therapy (AOTA, 1993).

Magis

Magis, Latin for "more," means striving for excellence in all aspects of life (Creighton University, n.d.). Occupational therapists can pursue *Magis* by living out the OT values of truth and prudence. OTs have a duty to be truthful, meaning not only that they are honest and accurate, but also that they have "an unfaltering commitment to inquiry and learning, to self-understanding, and to the

development of an interpersonal competence" (AOTA, 1993).

Men and Women For and With Others

Part of the mission of the Society of Jesus is to educate and form "men and women for and with others," a value that is also commonly lived out by OTs. This Ignatian value is a holistic approach that recognizes service as a mutual relationship (Creighton University, n.d.). Similarly, altruism calls OTs to provide unselfish, client-driven therapy.

Faith That Does Justice

One of the clearest similarities between the Ignatian values and the OT Core Values is the emphasis that is placed on justice. The Ignatian value of Faith That Does Justice and the OT value of Justice both assert the importance of caring for all people, especially those most in need. Faith that Does Justice is further lived out by OTs when they practice the value of equality, a value that encourages "an attitude of fairness and impartiality" (AOTA, 1993).

References

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