Future Strategies

Continue the interdisciplinary practice opportunity at the Anchorage Pioneer Home.

Arrange an opportunity for nursing and occupational therapy students to meet prior to interaction at the clinical facility.

Provide printed information about each program for distribution to involved students.

Faculty Comments

➢ “Great to see animated discussions between beginning level health care professionals in planning a comprehensive approach to promote resident wellness.”

➢ “Students were able to speak as equals to one another despite a difference in the terminal degree being pursued. Each group valued the others contribution and perspective.”

Interdisciplinary Collaboration between Occupational Therapy and Nursing at UAA

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“It was great to see the differences between nursing and OT. We both have the residents’ needs in mind but different ways to get there.”

Introduction
A critical philosophical element of both the UAA School of Nursing and the Creighton University / UAA Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program is the recognition of the need for other health related professionals to be aware of the skills that their graduates provide in the design and delivery of individualized health care for a broad spectrum of individuals.

Occupational therapy seeks to maximize an individual’s functional independence throughout the lifespan; while nursing concentrates on the human response of the individual to states of wellness and illness. Both professions strive to improve the health status of their patients / clients.

Traditionally individual healthcare professionals prepare for their eventual practice in relative isolation from each other. There has been a concerted effort for the last several years to change this approach. The benefit of exposing diverse healthcare professionals in pre-practice educational environments has been supported by a majority of the health care professions.

Through early exposure in clinical settings each group is able to see the skill set and foci of other healthcare professionals.

Both groups of students will:
- Become informed about the scope of practice in each unique discipline.
- Compare assessment and intervention tools.
- Observe each other interacting with residents.
- Develop an interdisciplinary care plan addressing concerns of assigned resident.

Nursing Student Comments
- “Enjoyed working together as a team with OT students to promote the wellness of the residents”.
- “Helpful to learn about other’s perspectives in regard to assisting residents to achieve health outcomes.”
- “We nurse the patients/residents in the bed but the OT students move the patients/residents out of the bed into returning to prior life activities.”
- “I didn’t know OT could do so many practical things to help the residents function.”

Occupational Therapy Student Comments
- “We work as a team and contribute to each other’s learning process.”
- “It was great to see the differences between nursing and OT. We both have the residents’ needs in mind but different ways to get there.”
- “I appreciate how nursing approaches information in the chart and incorporates this information into a treatment plan.”