

Faculty Member: Lynne Murphy, EdD, OTR/L

Background:

AOTA has identified rehabilitation, disability and participation as a key practice area for the 21st century. And as our population ages and medical advances promote a longer life, it is vital that occupational therapists address quality of life, through engagement of our clients in meaningful occupations. There are many potential disruptions to this participation, often including a combination of physical and social/emotional challenges. And as our healthcare environment is always changing, our approaches to remediating those physical and emotional challenges must also change.

Occupational therapists rely on their clinical reasoning skills to evaluate clients and provide interventions that facilitate engagement in meaningful occupations. These clinical reasoning skills are difficult to teach and learn in a classroom setting. However, it is critical in occupational therapy education that we ensure that new practitioners in our field are well-prepared to become competent and skilled in clinical reasoning and clinical skills.

Research Interests:

A primary research interest is in facilitating quality of life in our clients and exploration of community-based programs in which occupational therapy can play a vital role.

A secondary research interest is in the scholarship of teaching and learning, with a focus on clinical reasoning and universal design for learning.

Research Skills:

Mixed-methods research, quasi-experimental studies, community engagement, SPSS

Research Directions:

- a) Examine role of OT in quality of life for community-dwelling individuals. Projects may include cancer wellness programs, equine-facilitated programs for individuals with cancer, and the role of occupational therapy in quality of life for community-based rehabilitation.
- b) The scholarship of teaching and learning, related to universal design for learning in occupational therapy education and clinical practice, development of clinical reasoning in occupational therapy students, and instructional methods to promote readiness for clinical practice.