

Virginia Western Community College**OCT 206
Dyadic and Group Dynamics****Prerequisites: OTA Program placement**

Course Description: Provides theory and activity to develop positive interpersonal relationships and effective communication ability. Includes non-verbal communication, listening, observation, interviewing and documentation. Covers group process and its application to occupational therapy, including types of therapeutic groups, group membership roles, leadership skills and forces which affect group function and decision making.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

Meyer, C. & Sasse, C.S. (2025). *Early's mental health concepts and techniques for occupational therapy* (6th ed.). Wolters Kluwer.

Course Objectives

1. Provide foundational instruction in verbal and non-verbal communication techniques. (SLO #1)
2. Facilitate exploration of group dynamics including group types, roles, stages of development, and factors influencing group function and decision-making. (SLO # 2, 3, 4, 5)
3. Guide students in the development of group protocols tailored to client needs. (SLO #6)
4. Support the application of instructional design principles by mentoring students through the creating of learning objectives, educational materials, assessments, and professional presentations aligned with occupational therapy practice. (SLO #7)

Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student will:

1. Identify therapeutic forms of communication.
2. Differentiate the types of groups used in occupational therapy practice.
3. Classify group roles.
4. Distinguish the stages of group development.
5. Identify qualities of a productive group.
6. Develop a group protocol based upon client needs.
7. Demonstrate the application of principles of instructional design and teaching and learning in content related to occupational therapy which includes at minimum:
 - o Development of learning objectives
 - o Design of material
 - o Development of learning assessment

- Delivery of professional presentation
 - Self-reflection of process (ACOTE B.2.12.)
8. Provide direct intervention and procedures to persons, groups, or populations to enhance the safety, health and wellness, chronic condition management, and performance in occupation. (ACOTE B.3.6.)

Major Topics to be Included

- Group roles
- Group development
- Group protocol
- Therapeutic techniques
- Safety during intervention
- Relationship of cognition and sensation to emotion regulation

[ADA Statement](#) (PDF)

[Title IX Statement](#) (PDF)