

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
Department of Pediatrics
Occupational Therapy Graduate Program
In collaboration with NM LEND

Course Information:

Number: OCC TH 518

Term: Spring 2017

Title: Interdisciplinary Leadership in Advocacy and Public Policy

Credit Hours: 2 credit (credit/no-credit)

Faculty of record: Terry K. Crowe, PhD, OTR/L

Primary LEND faculty: Sandra Heimerl, PT, MS, DPT

Course Description:

This course offers an in-depth view of the operations of the State of New Mexico legislature and the federal legislature and provides specific skills to advocate for persons with disabilities and other health care issues.

Additional Trainee Information:

The course focuses on the importance of providing information to policy makers concerning issues related to persons with developmental disabilities by providing necessary information to legislators concerning an issue related to developmental disabilities. The course also provides the practical experience by making hill visits and informing legislators concerning an issue related to developmental disabilities. This course incorporates activities designed to further trainees' hands-on expertise with and fluency in public policy/advocacy issues.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, Trainees will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to interact through oral and written communication with colleagues, clients, and legislators
2. Demonstration of understanding the New Mexico legislative process by sharing your reflections in seminar with other trainees
3. Understand the federal legislation affecting persons with disabilities by meeting with and informing NM legislators during the Spring Disability Policy Seminar in Washington DC
4. Know and use several sources for obtaining legislative information
5. Understand the power of a collective voice on an issue by partnering with others during the meetings with legislators and reflecting on that process in a written paper.

Required Readings:

Public Policy/Advocacy Handouts during Disability Policy Seminar

NM legislature website: <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/>

Information on AUCD Web site: <http://www.aucd.org>

The Dance of Legislation, Eric Redman, 2001 available in the CDD library

Professional Behavior:

Professional behavior in class prepares trainees for professional behavior in practice. Trainees are therefore expected to come prepared for each seminar meeting, complete the assigned readings and activities within the specified timeframe, meet at least monthly with their assigned faculty mentor, and exhibit a professional and respectful demeanor in interpersonal interactions.

Learning Assignments:

- Document your shadowing of the state legislator on including activities, insights and impressions. **There is no way to make up the visits to the legislature. Should these not be completed, no credit will result for this course.**
- Apply for and attend the national Disability Policy Seminar when available
- Follow and document all actions on a bill introduced during the state Legislative session. Report to class the outcomes.
- Contact your state Representative and Senator with your views on the bill you are following. Keeping copies of emails and any return correspondence and include these in your final written report.
- Provide a 2 page reflection paper of the activities engaged in for this course to hsc-nm-lend@salud.unm.edu

Assignment Weighting

	Weight
• Participation in Disability Policy Seminar	50%
• Document Shadow of Legislator	25%
• Document and report all actions on a bill	10%
• Course Reflection	15%

Sessions:

OBJECTIVES	TOPIC	CONTACT HOURS
1 through 4	Visit to the NM legislature	7
1-5	Attend Disability Policy Seminar	28
1	Sharing public policy project	1
Total 36 hours		