

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

ENTRY-TO-PRACTICE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Educational Conceptual Framework



Professional Conceptual Framework

The current professional and educational conceptual frameworks were approved by School Council on January 27, 2021. This iteration reflects the 'things that matter to us' as we've discussed over the years and is, therefore, a reflection of our ongoing thoughts and actions as well as being aspirational for the directions we want to grow and improve into the future.

The educational and professional conceptual frameworks capture the values, beliefs, assumptions, knowledge and approaches used to guide the School's entry-to-practice educational program. The educational conceptual framework includes our commitment to four core concepts: 1) collaborative, coordinated, experiential; 2) respectful, reciprocal, progressive; 3) just right challenge; and 4) justice, equity, belonging. The professional conceptual framework includes our commitment to three core concepts: 1) occupation is intricately connected with person, environment and well-being; 2) professional behaviour is ethical practice; and 3) justice and equity.

Professional Conceptual Framework



Occupation is intricately connected with person, environment, and well-being: The hand symbolizes strength, power and protection, as well as generosity, hospitality and stability – providing a fitting symbol for occupation. The hand holds the seeds of future values, communities, cultures. The seeds overlap to show the intricacies and connections between occupation and abilities, cultural values, expectations. The seed shapes form a flower to symbolize the well-being that comes from all elements flowing together in a meaningful and satisfying way.



Professional behaviour is ethical practice: Reflective self-awareness is paramount to achieve the highest professional behaviour and ethical standards in practice. The icon symbolizes a reflective self, reaching towards the prized highest standards -the star. The two figures also represent that professional behaviour is within interactions. The blue symbolizes water – the fluidity of moving forward. The orange symbolizes earth – the solid foundation of ethical standards.



Justice and equity: The hands support the imagery of the open space where occupational therapists work in solidarity with people and the community to address issues of those treated unjustly. The hands are perfectly balanced to symbolize equality and fair representation. The varied color, size and types of leaves symbolizes diversity.

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Collaborative, coordinated, experiential: The hand symbolism of occupation draws from the reference of “All hands” - implying participation or contributions of all individuals in a group, from internal (faculty, students) and external partners (preceptors, tutors, community members) - this icon shows the interweaving of skills and knowledge throughout the curriculum, the interprofessional engagement, the valuing of knowledge and expertise and the hands-on of experiential learning. The ring shape with the overlay of hand on forearm represents the strength of the coordination of the developmental and integration of knowledge, learning, reflection, analysis and delivery within the curriculum. The various colour symbolizes the diversity of those coming together to achieve the collaborative outcome. The circle symbolizes commitment and community and the hope of a never-ending cycle of “all hands” working toward the common goal.



Respectful, reciprocal, progressive: The relationships between student, faculty and community are shown in the coming together or merging of the water shown in blue. The waves show the energy in the water - a power in coming together respectfully, reciprocally and progressively moving confidently forward toward a new vision and a new way of thinking. These waves also represent the tensions associated with learning and the transformative outcomes with learning through and from each other respecting experiences and social locations. The arc of the earth, represented in orange, is to show the support of the larger Occupational Therapy community.



Just right challenge: The intellectually rigorous curriculum provides students with a solid foundation of high academic and performance standards, represented by the orange of the earth. The curriculum also shows fluid and flexible forms of teaching and evaluation to meet the needs of diverse learners (and educators) shown in blue as water. Based loosely on the Sankofa bird seed symbolism of the African Diaspora – the seed shapes shown are meant to represent the value placed on: knowledge of the past upon which wisdom is based; indigenous ways of knowing; diverse experiences and knowledge of various cultures; and the evolution of knowledge as a gift for the generation to come. It also symbolizes the potential that can grow from mistakes and efforts to strive to exceed current abilities. The orange and blue that form the image base, symbolizes earth and water – representing solid foundational standards and the fluidity of ever-evolving knowledge and practice.



Justice, equity, belonging: Integrated through the curriculum are the goals of inclusion, belonging, justice and equity, depicted in this image as hands connecting, working together. The ebb and flow of land and sea, orange and blue, symbolizes intricate, changing relationships. The hands also represent work to be done. A new vision for occupational therapy – one that centers justice, equity, inclusion and belonging – requires work to challenge and unlearn established ways of knowing, making space for alternative ways of knowing and practicing. The circle symbolizes wholeness, connection, and evolution.