

Santa Ana College
Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
Professional Advisory Committee
Friday, January 30, 2015

Minutes

Present: Michelle Parolise, Debbie Hyman, Chris Murphy, Katie Gunderson, Elizabeth Russel, Ruth Sun, Radhika Hatingadi, Allison Walz, Kathryn Sanders, Patti Shiokari, Diane Mayfield, and Bart Hoffman

Welcome: Michelle welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Admission Process: The OTA program opened admissions from June - September 2014 for the 2015 academic year and received 243 qualified applicants. The list was randomized and 30 students were selected for the both the fall and spring semesters. There were an additional 8 students selected as alternates for each of the semesters. The first class of these students will start the program in February 2015. Students who were not selected are able to keep their applications on file for the next selection process. Michelle asked for input regarding the length of time applications should be accepted - the committee recommended that the length of time be reduced from 3 months to 1 month. Applications will be open from August - September 2015. This will enable students who complete prerequisite courses in the summer to have time to apply to the program.

Challenging students: Debbie discussed the issue of student disclosure of disabilities to potential fieldwork sites. Students have the choice to disclose or not disclose. The committee felt that it would be essential to disclose if the disability could result in potential injury to a client. The committee also said that they would not accept a student who had such a disability.

Bachelor's Degree: Michelle presented the selection of the OTA program as being one of the 15 community college programs to have a bachelor's degree. The purpose of the program and the proposed curriculum were shared with the group. The group was very favorable of the proposal. There was some

concern that the program would require additional fieldwork placements but it will not add any additional fieldwork. Katie Gunderson reported that she wanted to be sure that the upper division classes included psychosocial input. Diane Mayfield felt that it would be a good segue the OT Master's program at CSU Dominguez Hills. Members from the community stated that they would like to work with the more highly trained assistant.