

# ***Engaging Students in a Faculty Research Agenda***

**Tara Casimano PhD, OT/L**  
631-665-1600 x6247  
Tara.casimano@touro.edu

**Meira L. Orentlicher, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA**  
212-463-0400 x5672  
Meira.orentlicher@touro.edu

**Occupational Therapy Department  
School of Health Sciences**

**Touro College Faculty Learning Strategies Exchange Conference  
February 12, 2017**



**TOURO COLLEGE**  
*Where Knowledge and Values Meet*

## Engaging Students in a Faculty Research Agenda



Tara Casimano PhD, OT/L  
Meira L. Orentlicher, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA  
Occupational Therapy Department  
School of Health Sciences

Touro College Faculty Learning Strategies Exchange Conference  
February 12, 2017

### This session will include the following:

- Touro College's research and scholarship goals
- Research curriculum in the occupational therapy department
- Faculty research agendas
- Research field assignments
- Exercise: outline your own research agenda & select student activities
- Challenges and future directions
- Q&A

## Touro College's Research & Scholarship Goals

Touro College's Mission Statement embraces providing quality education, social justice, service, and scholarship

- To promote and support faculty and student research and scholarship
- To advance proficiency in communication, information and technology literacy, analytical skills, and quantitative research

**So let's include our students in our Faculty Research Agenda!!!**

<http://www.touro.edu/about/our-mission/>

Research Curriculum in the Occupational Therapy Department

Occupational therapy practitioners are consumers of research, which enables them to be evidence-based practitioners

- Competencies of a Research Consumer:
  - Identify resources in relation to a problem in clinical practice
  - Demonstrate knowledge about experts in one's area
  - Evaluate and critique research articles
  - Identify, evaluate, and draw logical conclusions from theory and available data in relation to practice questions

#### Research Curriculum in the Occupational Therapy Department (cont'd)

**“In accordance with the Touro College mission and objectives, the occupational therapy program curriculum, driven by scholarship and enhanced by professional practices, provides a supportive, learner-centered environment that upholds academic rigor and integrity.”**

Touro College Occupational Therapy Student Handbook 2016-2017

#### Research Curriculum in the Occupational Therapy Department (cont'd)

##### **Scholarly Practices**

##### **Program Goal:**

To prepare OT practitioners skilled in use and application of scholarship to support best practice.

##### **Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes:**

It is intended that graduates will implement occupational therapy practice with the ability to:

- Critically appraise and participate in scholarly activities required for evidence-based practice, program evaluation, quality improvement, and professional development.
- Seek out, acquire, and reflect on knowledge and skills to enable lifelong enhancement of learning, professional competence, and quality health care services.

Touro College Occupational Therapy Student Handbook 2016-2017

#### Research Curriculum in the Occupational Therapy Department (cont'd)

- Courses are structured to enable students to gradually meet more complex demands in each of these activities through each semester in the program
- Scholarly learning activities are integrated throughout the 3 year ( 6 semester) program
  - Promoting the development of evidenced based practitioners while supporting faculty scholarship
- It's a WIN WIN !!

#### Faculty Research Agendas

A model for conducting research in the occupational therapy department:

- Longitudinal
- Meaningful
- Statistical power
- Potential for dissemination
- Responsibility of the faculty member

### Faculty Research Agendas (cont'd)

1. Faculty member selects research agenda/general topic of interest with multiple potential questions/phases  
*(as part of Faculty Scholarship Plan)*
2. One question or phase per cycle (1 group; 4 semesters)
3. One group of 3-5 students is assigned to the faculty member  
*(one group = one credit of teaching load per semester)*
4. Faculty member selects research activities for the cycle
5. Faculty member selects research assignments for each semester  
*(first semester: literature review)*

### Challenges & Future Directions:

- A visit to the toy store
- I am one step ahead (barely) of the students
- Oops... when does the semester end??!!i!
- We bring the horses to the water, but ...
- Can the students do it all?
- The dissemination challenge
- I'm a really good clinician, but not so sure about being a researcher

- Exercise:**
- Your research agenda
  - Student activities



**Questions?**



**THANK YOU  
FOR JOINING US**

**Tara Casimano**

631-665-1600 x6247

Tara.casimano@touro.edu

**Meira Orentlicher**

212-463-0400 x5672

Meira.orentlicher@touro.edu

**TOURO COLLEGE  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT  
OT 495: Research Design and Statistics I**

**RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARY**

**Faculty Member:**

**Topic:**

**Sub topics (optional):**

**IRB Status:** New Application

New Application - sub-topics

Renewal

**Description of Study(ies) (inc. purpose, research question(s), design, participants (sample), data collection procedures, analysis, setting)**

**Literature Review Topics:**

**Related Fields (optional):**

**Student Activities:**

## RESEARCH FIELD ASSIGNMENTS (in research groups)

In the courses OT 496, OT 695 and OT 696 the students will participate in research field activities selected by the research mentor. The activities will be selected based on the stage of the research project (new or in progress). The activities include large activities and small activities as listed below. It is strongly recommended that the students will participate in no more than one large writing assignment.

OT 496: two assignments: one large assignment and one small assignment: proposal abstract (mandatory for all)

OT 695: one large assignment

OT 696: two assignments: one large and one small.

A large activity is worth 35% of the final grade, and a small activity is worth 10% of the final grade for the course. Additional assignments specific for each course will be provided by the course instructor. Specific requirements and grading criteria for each assignment are provided in separate documents.

Large Assignments (35%)	Small Assignments (10%)
<p><u>Writing assignments:</u>                      Research proposal                      New IRB application (for Touro or other agency) or CITI courses                      Final report/executive summary                      Journal article                      Preparation of Conference Presentation</p> <p><u>Doing assignments:</u>                      Tool development &amp; one test (validity or reliability)                      Pilot study                      Data collection (including recruitment, data entry and data management)                      Data entry &amp; management of a <u>large study</u>                      Data analysis</p>	<p>IRB renewal (for Touro or other agency)                      Conference proposal                      Short (2-3 pages) proposal abstract                      Short (2-3 pages) research summary                      Short (2-3 pages) interim summary</p>

**Sample Assignment:**  
**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT**  
**RESEARCH FIELD ACTIVITIES**

**DATA ANALYSIS**

**Purpose:**

Students may participate in data analysis. Data may be analyzed on the computer using appropriate software such as Excel, SPSS or NVivo. Data analysis also includes results interpretation in relation to previous research and clinical practice.

**Grading:**

Grading for data analysis will be based on the student's participation and quality of work. Students may be required to submit several drafts until they reach a satisfactory level. The final grade for this assignment will be based on their work throughout the duration of the assignment as well as the quality of the final draft. The following criteria should be used to evaluate the student's performance:

Scoring

- 2 Meets expectations
- 1 Needs improvement
- 0 Unacceptable performance



Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Data Analysis</b>	
<b>1. Responsibility</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arrives punctually for all meetings</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meets all assigned deadlines</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shows flexibility and modifies behavior according to demands of the situation</li></ul>	
<b>2. Communication Skills</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates a professional writing style</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actively listens and respectfully responds to the ideas and opinions of others</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Verbally interacts in a professional manner with others</li></ul>	
<b>3. Professional Growth</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accepts feedback and modifies behavior accordingly</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates an understanding of the value of research to others</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seeks feedback or additional resources to become an active learner in the research process</li></ul>	
<b>4. Research Skills: Data Analysis</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explains the purpose of the research study to group and participants</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates logical thinking and critical analysis in the data analysis process</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accurately uses technology for data analysis</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interprets the results, accurately answers the research question(s), and discusses the significance and relevance of the findings especially as they relate to previous research and OT practice</li></ul>	

Domain	Score	Comments
Responsibility	/6	

Communication	/6	
Professional growth	/6	
Research skills	/8	

Total score is \_\_\_\_\_ / 26 = \_\_\_\_\_ %

**A note about Research Dissemination and Copy Rights:**

The work produced for research projects in the Occupational Therapy Department takes place under the auspices of Touro College. Students contribute to these projects in order to fulfill required class assignments. Their work is being supervised by a faculty mentor who also serves as the principal investigator. As such, until such time when a project is published and copy rights transfer to the publisher, the copy rights of the research projects are held by the faculty mentor/principal investigator. Accordingly, students MAY NOT submit a proposal for conference presentation, write an article, or engage in any other dissemination activities without the written approval of the faculty mentor/principal investigator. Students may receive credit for their work in two ways:

- a. Students may be mentioned in the acknowledgements section of the article, book, or presentation.
- b. Students may be listed as co-authors. This will be done when students contribute to the development of the article/presentation beyond the requirements of the class (e.g., students may participate in revising several drafts of the article as required by the journal editor) AND with negotiations with the faculty mentor/principal investigator.

## Faculty Research Agenda Plan

---

Scholarship Plan:

<b>Timeline</b>	
<b>Scholarship Goal(s)</b> Include presentations and publications	
<b>Steps to complete goal(s) and due dates</b>	
<b>Progress by _____ (date)</b>	

Faculty: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Faculty Research Agenda Plan

---

### Research Project

Purpose:

Sub questions:

Phases:

Participants:

How many?

Inclusion criteria:

Exclusion criteria:

Where will you find them?

Recruitment strategies:

Methods:

Design

Procedures

Location

Timeline

Data collection strategies and tools:

Data analysis strategies:

## Faculty Research Agenda Plan

---

Plan for Current Research Cycle:

Research question(s)/phase:			
Research activities:			
Course number	Research Assignments	Additional Assignments	Due Dates
OT 496	1 small assignment: Proposal abstract		
	1 large assignment		
OT 695	1 large assignment		
OT 696	1 small assignment		
	1 large assignment		