

Academic Year/course: 2022/23

26034 - Assisted therapy for animals

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2022/23

Subject: 26034 - Assisted therapy for animals

Faculty / School: 127 - Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud

Degree: 276 - Degree in Occupational Therapy

ECTS: 5.0

Year:

Semester: Second Four-month period

Subject Type: Optional

Module:

1. General information

1.1. Aims of the course

The subject and its foreseen results respond to the following considerations and objectives:

The subject Animal-Assisted Therapy will guide the Occupational Therapist to develop his/her capacity to work holistically,

tolerantly, with no judgements, carefully and sensibly in an attempt to seek other work tools to complement their work

to fulfil the set objectives. At the same time, it will help reflect on the importance of occupational work to achieve the

well-being and comfort of populations, communities, groups and individuals whose lives are affected by limited functional

capacity, suffering and disease, and to analyse the different approaches used to work with these problems in our society.

Finally, developing effective communication and an empathic relationship with users, families, social groups and other professionals will be one of the most important objectives of this subject, as well as introducing students

to investigate alternative tools for the rehabilitation and integration of sick people. The Professional Intervention Planning

in a clinical case will be one of the cornerstones of the objectives to be met by students.

1.2. Context and importance of this course in the degree

The Animal-Assisted Therapy will be the Subject that guides the Occupational Therapist to research alternative tools for the rehabilitation and integration of sick people. At the same time, it will help reflect on the importance of occupational

work to achieve the well-being and comfort of populations, communities, groups and individuals whose lives are affected by limited functional capacity, suffering and disease, and to analyse the different approaches used to work with these

problems in our society.

This subject is cross-sectionally related with the other degree subjects as it offers the perspective of introducing animals as working instruments into Occupational Therapy.

It intends to provide students the chance to conduct new research lines in the Occupational Therapy field as to

improving rehabilitation treatments by using animals

1.3. Recommendations to take this course

It will be necessary to attend classes, theoretical-practical seminars and fieldwork practicals to pass this subject as it is

particularly practical in nature.

A final exam about its theoretical-practical contents will also be sat.

2. Learning goals

2.1. Competences

When students pass the subject, they will be competent to:

- Study the different factors that influence health and disease.
- Develop a critical capacity for scientific theories and ideological doctrines.
- Play roles and shoulder responsibilities which, as healthcare professionals, they must perform to meet a population's or someone's requirements.
- Acquire knowledge and the capacity to apply Animal-Assisted Therapies in the Occupational Theory context.
- Acquire the capacity to apply a research methodology to their professional actions by improving and updating its quality.
- Plan, design and develop a social research in the health field with methodological rigour.
- Acquire the capacity to maintain a person's dignity, privacy and confidentiality as something inherent to students playing their professional role.
- Acquiring skills to relate with patients and other professionals that enable the process to be optimised.

The Subject's competences: ORDER CIN 729/2009

- ? 3. Obtain and use epidemiological data and evaluate tendencies and risks as a basis for health-related decision making.
- ? 4. Students recognise their own limitations and the need to maintain and update their professional competence by attaching special importance to the autonomous learning of new knowledge and techniques and motivation by quality.
- ? 5. Know, critically evaluate and learn how to use sources of information to obtain, organise, interpret and communicate scientific, health, public health and social information by keeping data confidential.
- ? 7. Understand and recognise the interrelation that links well-being, health, significant occupation, dignity and participation concepts.
- ? 8. Understand and recognise the importance of contextual factors as determining factors of occupational dysfunction.
- ? 10. Evaluate and adapt the environment to promote participation in significant occupations in various

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day-to-day facets, personal autonomy and quality of life.

- ? 17. Understand the basis of the actions, indications and efficiency of Occupational Therapy interventions according to

available scientific evidence.

? 21. Undertake professional practice by respecting other professionals by acquiring teamwork skills.

? 22. Actively listen, obtain and summarise relevant information about individuals and populations? problems and

occupational demands, and understand the content of this information.

? 23. Establish assertive interpersonal communication with all the relevant interlocutors during the Occupational Therapy

process.

2.2. Learning goals

To pass this subject, students should obtain the following results:

1- Analyse, summarise and relate the fundamental concepts in Assisted Therapy techniques.

2.- Demonstrate having learning the different Animal-Assisted Therapy techniques in the health field.

3- Correctly apply these concepts to the Occupational Therapy field.

4- Correctly apply the Vancouver System and perform bibliographic documentary works as a basic requirement to put the

subject?s practicals to the best possible use.

5- Know both the theoretical and practical parts of the Animal-Assisted Therapy techniques that apply to Occupational Therapy

research.

2.3. Importance of learning goals

They will allow students to be better prepared to understand the basics of Occupational Therapy theories and methodologies

with a bio-psycho-social vision of human beings and to, therefore, be better able to start planning by discussing professional

actions in situations of physical, psychic or sensorial disease/disability, or in situations of marginalisation throughout someone?s

life cycle by introducing the Animal-Assisted Therapy as a complementary tool to plan such intervention.

3. Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

3.1. Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

The student must demonstrate that he/she has achieved the expected learning outcomes by means of the following assessment activities

-Participation and tasks related to the practical activities. Elaboration and presentation of a work of application of the contents (50% qualification).

-Final exam in which the acquisition of the intended learning outcomes will be assessed (50% grade). The exam will be an objective test.

4. Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

4.1. Methodological overview

The learning process designed for this subject is based on the following:

Knowledge will be acquired by applying different methodologies: on the one hand, in the theoretical classes, student participation will be encouraged, as well as the presentation of some of the topics of the programme. This activity will be complemented with the practical classes that will be developed in small groups to facilitate communication between all the members of the group, and the assimilation of the work to be developed.

The process will be completed in the tutorial hours in which the students will have the opportunity to learn in an individualised and direct way.

Finally, this whole process will be supported by the updating and maintenance of the same through the moodle web page.

4.2. Learning tasks

1.- Theoretical face-to-face classes (25 hours)

Teaching methodology: Group work in class on the contents to be covered. Debates and text commentary.

2.- Practical face-to-face classes and theoretical-practical seminars (25 hours)

Teaching methodology: Tool for self-learning control: expectations, experiences, doubts, ideas that the student will record throughout the course and that will serve to self-evaluate their achievements in the subject.

3.- Assignments (20 hours). Elaboration and presentation of a work of application of the contents.

4.- Evaluation and personal study (55 hours).

4.3. Syllabus

This course will address the following topics:

- Origin and history of Animal Assisted Therapy.
- Spanish and foreign institutions of reference in this field.
- Intervention frameworks: developmental theories.
- Companion animals and socialisation processes.
- Knowledge on animal ethology and socialisation taught at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.
- Mental health and companion animals.
- Aging and companion animals.
- Theoretical and practical classes on Hippotherapy.
- Knowledge of assistance and medical alert dogs.
- Therapies facilitated by companion animals for different disabilities.
- Possible lines of research in Occupational Therapy intervention.
- Practices in the fields of: hippotherapy, dolphin therapy and assistance and therapy dogs.

4.4. Course planning and calendar

Schedule of face-to-face sessions and presentation of work

- Theoretical classes in large groups: 2h/week throughout the corresponding modules.
- Practical classes: Throughout the course, depending on the possibilities offered by the collaborating centres and the specific training needs (internships, seminars) for the elaboration of the research design or case study.