

OT and EDI: An Initial Conversation

This course is centered on what equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) means to the field of Occupational Therapy (OT). Led by Pacific University's Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) co-chairs, this course will offer a look into the origins of OT in Oregon, how EDI can be utilized in OT, and the impact of diversifying the profession.

Speaker Bios:

Bridget Wells is originally from Raleigh, NC. She has lived in Oregon for 5 years before being accepted into the doctoral of occupational therapy program at Pacific University. A returned Peace Corps volunteer, she is passionate about advocacy and justice. She is proud to serve as co-chair of Pacific's newly-established COTAD chapter and looking forward to carrying out her EDI and advocacy capacities in the field upon graduation.

Uchendu Iwuanyanwu is originally from Berkeley, CA. He lived in Houston, TX for 20 years before moving to Oregon in 2020 to pursue his graduate studies in the doctoral of occupational therapy program at Pacific University. He has always been interested in expanding the scope of practice of occupational therapy especially surrounding the topic of occupational justice for marginalized communities. As the fellow co-chair of Pacific University's COTAD chapter, he is passionate about what it truly means to promote EDI in the profession of occupational therapy.

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- 1) Define equity, diversity and inclusion.
- 2) Describe occupational deprivation and health disparities marginalized groups often experience due to a lack of EDI.
- 3) Identify at least one EDI resource to implement into daily occupational therapy practice.

Course Timeline:

7:00-7:10 Introductions and defining equity, diversity and inclusion

7:10-7:20 Demographics of Oregon and OT profession

7:20-7:30 Occupational deprivation and health disparities

7:30-7:45 Next steps and reflections

7:45-8:00 Review of available resources, Q&A

This course is an Introductory Level, with content focus in Occupational Therapy Foundational Knowledge. Completion of this course is recognized by the OT Oregon Licensing Board as one contact hour.

