



## Occupational Therapy Decision Simulation

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Rosemary Caulton, lecturer in the School of Occupational Therapy at the Otago Polytechnic, has engaged the services of students Pam Murphy and Phil Brophy to design and produce a digital interactive-based learning tool for her department. The resulting tool is envisaged to provide an interesting environment for Occupational Therapy students that will enable them to learn content related material in an enjoyable way. Students will also be able to experience decision-making that relates to real life placement and will be able to understand the consequences of making these decisions. The product will be structured in such a way that tutors will be able to enter data according to the type of decision-making situations they want the students to be doing at any particular time. Tutors could then log the individual student performance if this is deemed necessary.

The anticipated benefits of such a tool are:

- ◆ The ability to relate simulation to practical experiences.
- ◆ Students' decision-making abilities will be enhanced and increased.
- ◆ An effective and enjoyable way of learning will be provided.
- ◆ Tutors ability to gain improved formative assessment of students is enhanced.
- ◆ Students' feedback and reflection on decision-making processes are enhanced.
- ◆ Tutors are able to update simulations themselves as the need arises.

The ultimate potential benefit of this tool is that it will help the Occupational Therapy department to deliver course content in a manner that meets the beliefs that underlie occupational therapy practice.

Pam and Phil plan to use ShockTalk for Windows to develop their tool. ShockTalk works in conjunction with Macromedia director and enables developers to create application that can prompt the viewer for spoken information. The following diagram shows the envisaged basic structure of the finished product.

The result will be presented as an interactive day in the life of an Occupational Therapy worker enabling students to understand the nature of the industry they are studying.

