

Less writing, more talking:
Using Zoom™ videoconferencing to facilitate reflective learning during final year occupational therapy students' transition to practice.

Robinson, L., Peart, A., & Yu, M-L. Department of Occupational Therapy, Monash University.

Introduction and Aims

Video-conferencing is a cost-effective and flexible way to deliver curriculum. Monash University students enrolled in an online unit during their placement completed written assessment tasks to describe their experiences yet felt disconnected from their peers.

We used Zoom™ to deliver weekly tutorials in **small groups** to students during their final placement, to meet the following aims:

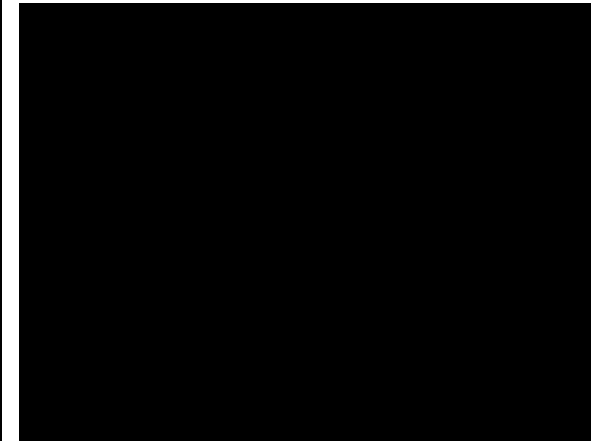
- promote student reflection and critique of professional issues via a peer learning approach,
- support quality learning and assessment, and
- create a positive and effective learning environment.

Methods

A cross-sectional study using a mixed methods approach involving all students enrolled in the 4th year of Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) course at Monash University in 2016. Quantitative data of students' online learning experiences was collected using the Online Learning Environment Survey, Constructivist On-Line Learning Environment Survey, and Social Media Learning Scale before and after placement. Students were also invited to participate in semi-structured key informant interviews.

Results

Seventy-one students participated in the Zoom™ tutorials. Twenty-one students completed pre-placement surveys (n=21) and sixty completed post-placement surveys (n=60). Semi-structured interviews were completed with four key informants. Quantitative data analysis is currently being completed.



Conclusions

Tutorials using Zoom™ teleconference appear to provide students with superior learning opportunities than traditional discussion forums while on clinical placement. The results of this pilot will inform the use of video conferencing in both academic and fieldwork teaching and learning activities for allied health students.

Contact details: luke.robinson@monash.edu