

Expanding Structured Simulated Learning Space for Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) Students

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Background

What is experiential learning?

- "Learning by doing" -- gaining knowledge through practical, hands-on experiences¹
- Two types:
 - High-Fidelity Simulation (HFS)
 - Low-Fidelity Simulation (LFS)

Benefits of experiential learning

- Refines problem-solving skills²
- Enhances clinical reasoning
- Improves self-efficacy
- Thus advancing students' professional development & readiness for Level II fieldwork³

Tufts OT Department's position within the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences produces strong generalist graduates with their liberal arts curriculum. However, investing in laboratory space & materials would not only **increase students' confidence within the medical model** but also **increase potential revenue for the department**.

Purpose & Aims

To **understand the benefits of experiential learning space and materials** for the Tufts Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program to **improve perceived self-efficacy among students**.

Aim 1: To investigate the benefits of experiential learning for Tufts OTD students

Aim 2: To determine what resources are most beneficial for experiential learning

Aim 3: To make recommendations for developing simulated learning opportunities for Tufts OTD students

Methods

Distributed survey to peer institutions (n=16)

Conducted peer institution site visits (semi-structured interview & observation checklist) (n=8)

Quantitative & qualitative data analysis

Developed recommendation report for presentation to key stakeholders

Results

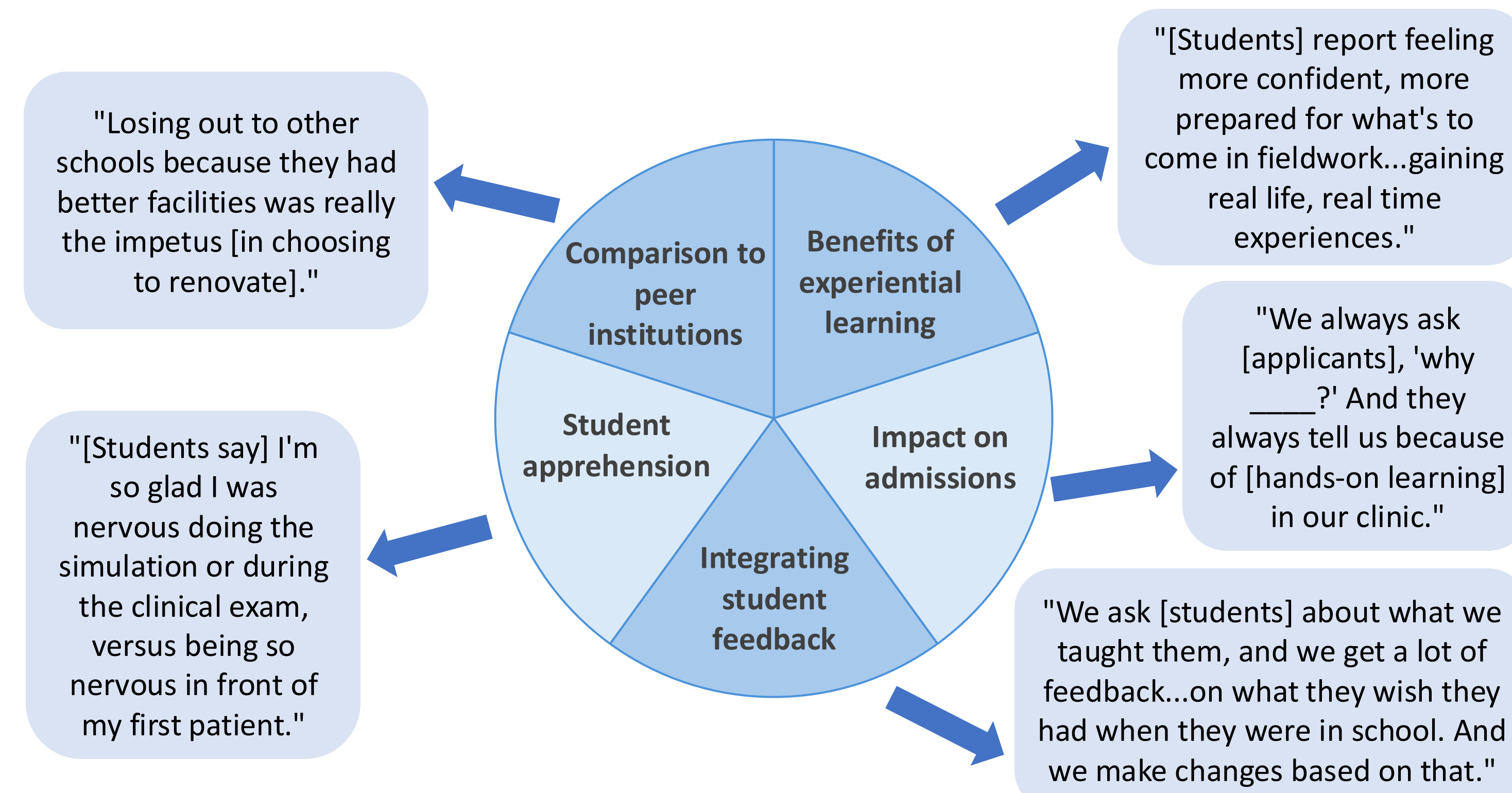
IN WHAT WAYS DO STUDENTS & FACULTY REPORT BENEFITTING FROM THE LAB SPACE?



100% OF PROGRAMS SURVEYED LISTED THEIR LAB SPACE FULFILLS THE FOLLOWING ACOTE STANDARDS (2018)

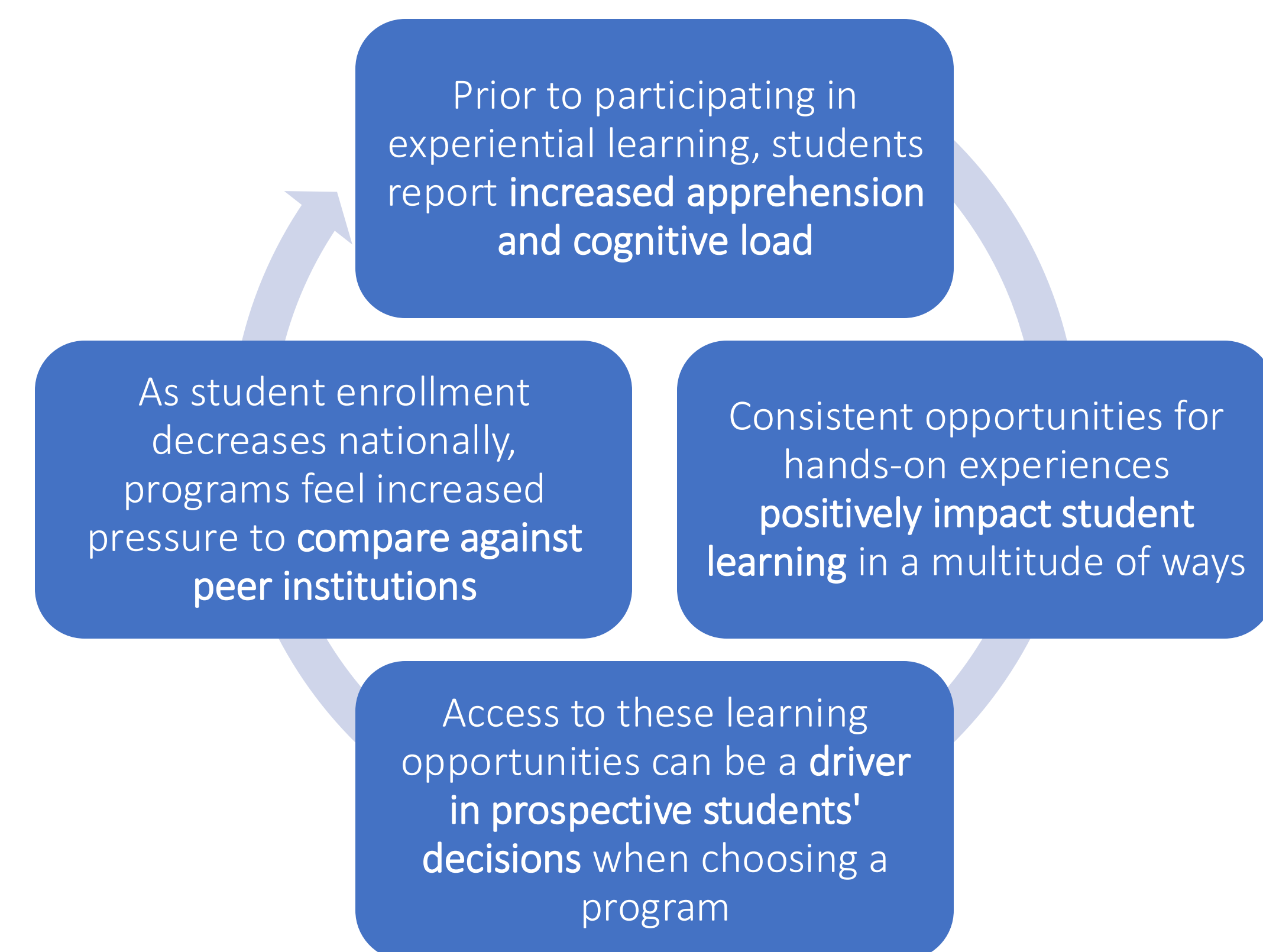
- ✓ Safety of Self and Others (B.3.7.)
- ✓ Therapeutic Use of Self (B.4.1.)
- ✓ Clinical Reasoning (B.4.2.)
- ✓ Occupation-Based Interventions (B.4.3.)
- ✓ Provide Interventions and Procedures (B.4.10.)
- ✓ Mobility (Functional & Community) (B.4.13., B.4.14.)

THEMES IDENTIFIED FROM ANALYSIS OF SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS



Discussion

*"This is the **safest place** that you can make mistakes."*



*"Your ability to meet the patient's needs is **only as good as the equipment and resources you have around you to problem solve.**"*

Recommendations

- There is a **clear demonstrated need** for structured simulated learning space and materials for Tufts OTD students
- To **investigate a collaborative return on investment** in expanding resources necessary for experiential learning
 - Collaboration with other rehab departments that already have space
- To **further investigate potential for downstream revenue** resulting from lab space, such as a faculty-led clinic

References & Contact Info



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Special thank you to our fellow peer institutions for graciously sharing their time and expertise with us!