

The First Interview

Weekly Report 10/16/17 to 10/20/17

During this past week, I have conducted my first professional interview with an OT. I believe it was a good start regarding my network-building with professionals, because Gail Blom was a owner of a company that specifically works with Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy, so I got a good and thorough outlook on what I can expect through further research in this field of study. One thing she said that stood out to me was that the most rewarding part of her daily job as an OT is finally seeing improvement in a struggling patient. This actually was what I imagined her to say, but to hear such sentimental words coming out of the mouth of a professional significantly helped to shift my idea of the occupation more towards a soft and people-devoted one, rather than a cold and “sciency” one.

Primarily, this experience has allowed me to be more prepared with questions for future interviews because I realized which ones were awkward and repetitive and which ones were truly insightful and interesting. Questions like “What is the most rewarding part of your daily job?” and “Would you please explain to me how you first found interest in this career?” were more effective, while questions like “What were you like as a child that allowed you to understand your passion for this field?” and “Did you ever have a program similar to ISM in high school or college?” seemed a little awkward and degrading. Therefore, I can use this interviewing experience as a foundation upon which to greatly improve my interviewing skills in the future.

However, the process of finding an opportunity to actually schedule and interview with a professional revealed to me that I may need to find alternate ways of going about finding contact information. Much of the information I found online regarding professionals was outdated, hence it very often occurred that after calling the receptionist, I was informed that the person I wished to speak to no longer worked at that location. After calling about 15 company phone numbers, only one actually was able to transfer me to the targeted professional, and luckily that one professional was available to schedule an interview. Perhaps I could try investigating people’s LinkedIn profiles, and asking my last interviewee if she has any contacts she could refer me to. Still, going forward into the next week, I feel great encouragement from this experience.