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## **The relevance of the UFS occupational therapy model – perceptions of students and practitioners**

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**Introduction:** Occupational therapy students of the University of the Free State (RSA) choose from a range of models for guidance during clinical fieldwork. One of the models that are reportedly used, is the UFS model of the Ontogenesis and the Dynamics of Function and Dysfunction (UFS model). The model was developed by Pretorius in the early 1990's, a period renowned for the development of other major models (e.g. MOHO; CMOP-E). Since then, the latter models have been researched and adjusted, providing a continuing evidence base for implementation and associated tools development. In contrast, the UFS model has not been formally revised but still appears significant for occupational therapy clinicians and academics associated with the UFS due to its relevance to the South African context.

**Objective:** The aim is to explore and describe the relevance of the UFS model as applied in occupational therapy education and practice in the Mangaung Metropolitan area.

**Method:** A qualitative study, descriptive in nature, was conducted. Data were collected by means of the nominal group technique with fourth year occupational therapy students, academic staff and clinicians respectively.

**Results:** Study findings exemplify how the UFS model was sustained and developed in its practical application. Recommendations for the theoretical development of the UFS model to reflect its currency in practice is proposed for the occupational therapy community's consideration

**Conclusion:** The development of the UFS model, navigated from an applied practice perspective, addresses our profession's academic-practice gap and reflect the need for theoretical frameworks applicable to the global South.