

## **IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS OF ADAPTIVE LEARNERS USING A NOVEL ACTIVITY WITH DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY APPLICANTS**

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Adaptive learning has been identified as a preferred characteristic for health profession education and important in the development of clinical decision-making skill. Adaptability of health care professionals is seen as a valuable attribute in a modern rapidly changing and fast paced health care environment. The ability to identify characteristics of adaptive learners would be a valuable tool in a competitive graduate admissions process like physical therapy. Could a novel group activity as part of the admissions process help faculty identify applicants with characteristics of adaptive learners? The UW- Stevens Point Physical Therapy program incorporated a novel adaptive learning activity into the campus visit day. Prospective applicants completed the novel task in small randomly assigned peer groups and completed an open response survey about their experiences. Qualitative analysis of applicant responses was conducted to investigate themes of adaptive learning, inform future novel activities, and explore applicant's adaptive learning attributes.

