

## Assignment 1

### Sustainability Self-Study Activity

“As part of a commitment to positive transformation in the world, Emory has identified sustainability as **one of the University's top priorities.**” In an effort to align with this University-wide vision, the DPT program is developing various initiatives to integrate sustainability throughout the curriculum. This self-study exercise is the first introduction to sustainability and is designed to increase awareness of this area of study and foster individual and community sustainability initiatives.

**Evaluation of Project:** Review and provide an answer to each objective. List each objective and then provide your answer. Save as word document and upload to blackboard.

Reference readings are provided, but you are expected to do your own literature/web search to answer questions.

**NOTE:** It is very important to cite ALL your references – and note appropriately. In your own searching, you will find certain phrasing that will be quite helpful to simply quote – this is alright to do in this exercise, as long as you do so appropriately. Identifying and documenting your sources is part of the goal of this project. Reference for guidelines:

<http://oxford.library.emory.edu/research-learning/citation-plagiarism/citing.html>

#### Objectives:

1. Determine a working definition and understanding of sustainability
  - Review various definitions of sustainability and specifically how it may relate to healthcare.
  - List definition and source
2. Increase awareness of Emory University’s Vision for Sustainability
  - Review Emory’s Sustainability website <http://sustainability.emory.edu/>
  - List 8 areas of sustainability initiatives
3. Sustainability on Individual level: Identify personal efforts towards sustainability.  
“Make A Pledge” by visiting: <http://sustainability.emory.edu/>
  - Purpose: This is a personal pledge to address energy, sustainable food, water conservation, green space, commuting, recycling, and other sustainability issues when at Emory and at home. While Emory University has committed itself to achieving overall sustainability, it will take the active participation of the entire Emory community to pitch in, turn off, conserve and re-evaluate daily habits for Emory to realize its vision.

- List 3 areas to which you have committed in this pledge
  - List any activities you are already doing
  - [http://sustainability.emory.edu/cgi-bin/MySQLdb?VIEW=/viewfiles/view\\_pledge.txt&pageid=1042](http://sustainability.emory.edu/cgi-bin/MySQLdb?VIEW=/viewfiles/view_pledge.txt&pageid=1042)
4. Sustainability on Community Level: Increase your awareness of take the “Ecological Footprint Quiz” by visiting: <http://www.myfootprint.org/>
- Purpose: The Ecological Footprint Quiz estimates the amount of land and ocean area required to sustain your consumption patterns and absorb your wastes on an annual basis. After answering 27 easy questions you’ll be able to compare your Ecological Footprint to others’ and learn how to reduce your impact on the Earth.
  - Describe your “footprint” and how it relates to country average
5. Sustainability on Professional level
- Provide at least one suggestion to increase sustainable practices for any of the following physical therapy related areas: DPT program, Emory Healthcare or general PT profession.
  - Examples: *To support our program to use more local farmers who promote sustainability and natural products, create a list of local vendors for administrative staff to use for catered DPT events; work with sustainability committee to help support paper handout reduction in class.*

Note: As we explore avenues to reduce paper waste and increase digital scholarship, there are a mixture of opinions and perspectives from students and faculty. The purpose of this self-study exercise is to help you *recognize that the process of moving toward sustainability often involves trade-offs, tensions, and difficult choices.*

Our programs goals align with Emory’s sustainability vision, to teach students to “apply analytical systems thinking to contemporary global and local problems, practice participatory strategies to resolve those problems, and develop an ethical compass that guides their assessments of alternative solutions”. This is one example of ways we can collectively prepare for the difficult sustainability challenges we face now and in the years to come.

Reference Readings:

<http://sustainability.emory.edu/>

<http://www.epa.gov/sustainability/basicinfo.htm>