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The Impact of LSVT-BIG Certification on SUNY Downstate Alumni

LSVT-BIG is a movement-based therapy used for patients with Parkinson's disease that is delivered by LSVT-BIG certified clinicians and certified students under supervision. Though many studies exist that identify the benefits of LSVT-BIG training for patients, there is a lack of research that demonstrates if holding a LSVT-BIG certification provides practitioners any professional benefit. The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the impact of LSVT-BIG certification on SUNY Downstate Occupational Therapy (OT) alumni fieldwork level II and entry-level careers. A quality assurance survey was emailed to 164 SUNY Downstate OT alumni to gather information about the certification's impact. The exact number of participants who completed the course was not accessible, however, an estimated 68 of the 164 alumni emailed were LSVT-BIG certified by Dr. Nancy Kline. Of the 164 alumni contacted, 24 alumni responded, for a response rate of 15 percent. Of the 24 respondents, 13 fully completed the survey. According to the survey responses, respondents' confidence, competency, and job performance were the most positively affected by obtaining the LSVT-BIG certification. The least positively affected by obtaining the certification were respondents' compensation, performance appraisals, and outreach with Parkinson's patients. Based on the results, obtaining additional certification during entry-level education benefitted fieldwork level II experiences and entry-level job positions of SUNY Downstate alumni. In order to further assess the potential benefits of holding an LSVT-BIG certification, additional studies with a larger sample size need to be performed.

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