

INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAMWORK

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

For almost 40 years, the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) has developed and implemented educational programs in West Texas and beyond in fulfillment of its mission, which is to improve the health of people by providing educational opportunities to students and health care professionals, advancing knowledge through scholarship and research, and providing patient care and service. In selecting Interprofessional Teamwork (*it*) as the topic for its Quality Enhancement Plan, TTUHSC is building upon this foundation and demonstrating continued leadership in healthcare education.

Vision. The overarching, long-term vision of the Interprofessional Teamwork initiatives is to establish an institutional culture that is committed to the values of interprofessional education and care, including collaboration, communication, and coordination.

Purpose. The primary purpose of the Interprofessional Teamwork initiative is to prepare graduates to be leaders in the dynamic health care environment by promoting the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes required to provide high quality, safe, individualized care for patients as members of an interprofessional team.

Student Learning Outcomes. The Interprofessional Teamwork initiative will be implemented in four stages. Students who participate in all four stages of *it* programming will be expected to:

1. Describe the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes required for an individual to function as an effective member of an interprofessional team.
2. Identify the roles and diverse perspectives of Interprofessional Teamwork, including responsibilities, expertise, background, knowledge, and values of *it* members.
3. Demonstrate heightened awareness and appreciation of the potential benefits of Interprofessional Teamwork.
4. Demonstrate evidence-based decision-making while participating collaboratively as a member of an interprofessional team.
5. Demonstrate basic group skills, including communication, negotiation, conflict resolution, delegation, time management, and assessment of group dynamics.
6. Participate as a collegial member of an interprofessional team to coordinate and individualize patient care to ensure excellence, continuity, and reliability, even when team members are in different physical locations.

Focus Areas for Implementation. Achievement of the stated purpose and student learning outcomes will require transformation of the current health professions educational process and environment. Thus, implementation of the Interprofessional Teamwork initiative will focus on four areas, as follows: 1) Create an *administrative infrastructure* to support interprofessional education. 2) Provide *faculty development* opportunities to support the development and implementation of *it* pedagogies and modalities. 3) Establish a *culture of interprofessional education* by developing *it* learning opportunities and facilitating the integration of these opportunities into existing curricula. 4) Provide the *technical expertise and infrastructure* necessary to facilitate interconnectivity among individuals even when they are in different geographic locations.

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