

## Linking Interprofessional Networks for Collaboration (LINC)

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio)

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The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio's (UT Health San Antonio) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) supports the institution's mission of "making lives better through excellence in education, research, health care, and community engagement." The QEP, entitled "Linking Interprofessional Networks for Collaboration (LINC)," is designed to enhance interprofessional education (IPE) at UT Health San Antonio by realigning currently disparate IPE activities occurring throughout the institution's five schools and creating an environment that facilitates faculty and student connections among the health professions programs and catalyzes innovation through the creation of an IPE "Incubator". The partnerships produced and facilitated by the LINC incubator reinforce a design that supports the schools' aim of building institutional capacity for students from different programs and professions to work together in clinical training and/or research experiences.

The long-term impact of the LINC initiative is to develop students who are able to contribute to interprofessional health care teams by providing quality health care leading to improved patient outcomes. This long-term expectation is being cultivated from an educational culture and paradigm where IPE is innate in the teaching and learning of all health care programs offered. The LINC project will:

- Increase faculty, student, and staff knowledge to foster skills from a shared institutional IPE framework, creating an environment that reinforces the value of interprofessional patient care; and,
- Demonstrate institutional adoption of IPE as a strategic priority through increased instruction and collaborative endeavors integrated into programs' pre-clinical/pre-licensure activities intended to augment and formalize opportunities for student IPE experiences across the institution.

The LINC Incubator reinforces a physical, virtual, and cultural environment that encourages the exploration of research and best practices with relation to IPE heuristic strategies and strengthens a community of faculty and students dedicated to interprofessional patient care through the exchange of ideas and expansion of partnerships within and between the schools and programs. The LINC incubator centralizes activities designed to cultivate awareness of IPE and fosters opportunities for faculty and students to imagine new ideologies. The LINC incubator provides numerous IPE resources, faculty development opportunities, training modules, coordination assistance with cross-school and program activities, funding for innovative IPE concepts, and a recognition program for faculty and students who lead these efforts.

The nationally recognized Interprofessional Education Collaborative's (IPEC's) four learning outcome competencies for interprofessional education have been adopted by UT Health San Antonio. These learning outcomes/competencies guide the project's design and establish the foundation for the didactic and experiential efforts envisioned. Moreover, the IPEC competencies support the structure of the assessment strategy based on Kirkpatrick's levels of evaluation that is expected to gauge both students' and faculty's knowledge, attitudes, and skills surrounding the IPEC framework and serve as markers of LINC's impact on student learning. Conceived as a plan with an experimental design, LINC will adapt strategies as needed to transform the institutional environment to allow IPE to flourish at UT Health San Antonio.