

IPE²Practice

Executive Summary of the Quality Enhancement Plan for The University of Texas Medical Branch

Data-driven evidence substantiates the need for interprofessional education and practice in the delivery of health care, the pursuit of health knowledge, and the promotion of healthy populations. Accordingly, students at academic health science centers should be introduced, integrated, and immersed into interprofessional environments to acquire the skills that advance collaboration and teamwork across the health sciences.

Infusing a continuum of interprofessional learning experiences that allow students opportunities to acquire skills to work in collaborative teams is the focus of the new UTMB Quality Enhancement Plan: “IPE²Practice.” The development and proposed implementation of this QEP has been constructed through broad-based involvement of UTMB constituents. It builds upon the strong foundations successfully established with **Synergy**, the first UTMB QEP that helped students develop knowledge and mutual understanding of interdisciplinary roles of healthcare professionals. Institutional assessment, from the first QEP, indicated an opportunity to elevate UTMB’s current interprofessional program to emphasize team-based learning in interprofessional practice settings. Institutional assessments of student priorities confirmed interest and need for interprofessional education to include practice with other healthcare professionals. Faculty response indicated that interprofessional practice would improve the student learning environment and that faculty involvement should be included in the plan. This feedback also aligns with UTMB’s goal to prepare students to meet the challenges of improving the health of populations. Our strategic plan will insure that the healthcare providers of tomorrow learn from interprofessional opportunities today. As a result, we have created these encompassing goals:

- Goal 1: Enhance the learning environment to prepare students to work on interprofessional teams.
- Goal 2: Equip students to graduate with necessary skills for working on interprofessional teams.

Concrete measures have been created to assess achievement of learning objectives and program goals. Through our plan, UTMB will advance to meet national progress in interprofessional education and practice. The Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (Interprofessional Education Collaborative, 2016), supported by 15 professional healthcare organizations, is the nucleus for our student learning objectives.

IPE²Practice will introduce entering students to the IPEC Core Competencies which include:

- Values & Ethics** – Students will be equipped to determine values and ethics that create an environment of diversity, honesty and respect.
- Roles & Responsibilities** - Students will understand their roles and those of other healthcare professionals on a collaborative team.
- Interprofessional Communication** – Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively on an interprofessional healthcare team
- Teams & Teamwork** – Students will apply the principles of team and relationship-building dynamics on any interprofessional team.

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