



QEP IS IPE: ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AT MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Interprofessional education (IPE) is a crucial educational element to prepare health professional students to work competently in a collaborative team environment (Buring et al., 2009). The inclusion of IPE in its curricula demonstrates MSM's sustained commitment to fulfilling its mission of improving the health and well-being of individuals and communities, increasing the diversity of the health professional and scientific workforce, and addressing primary health care through programs in education, research, and service. MSM's QEP is entitled Advancing Health Equity Through Interprofessional Education at Morehouse School of Medicine. Our slogan is *QEP is IPE*.

The MSM QEP was identified and defined through an ongoing and comprehensive planning and evaluation process: 1) the strategic planning process revealed the need for the incorporation of IPE in the institution's Strategic Plan, 2) IPE is an accreditation requirement for three degree programs, 3) faculty, staff, and students were involved in planning, and their feedback was requested in the QEP development and implementation as part of its primary curriculum, 4) an extensive literature review identified best practices and common issues, and 5) an MSM baseline survey showed limited and inconsistent IPE activities in the early years of student study.

Based on the information from those five sources, the QEP will serve as an introductory and foundational IPE experience in our students' academic training. The QEP will design three newly created and distinct initiatives. The Connections Learning Experience will include didactic and student team sessions incorporated into existing MSM courses. The IPE Student Council, a group of interprofessional students, will design and lead activities designed to encourage camaraderie and communication across academic divisions. The Health Equity Activity Registry will be an online registry that houses interprofessional activities for students to engage with other students and interdisciplinary faculty.

QEP is IPE has broad campus support. The MSM QEP was informed and developed by a diverse group of faculty, students, and staff. These individuals formed QEP Planning and Implementation Teams that created the structure of the three initiatives, the timeline for implementation, and the assessment plan for a successful QEP. MSM also showed its commitment through the designation of QEP fiscal, personnel, and physical resources. The MSM QEP Director, along with The Office of Academic and Community Innovation, will provide administrative support for QEP development, implementation, assessment, and continuous improvement. This QEP's ultimate aims are to develop quality introductory IPE experiences to prepare MSM students for future health teams and to satisfy this accreditation requirement in its academic divisions.

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