

Executive Summary

Institution: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso

Website: [TECH Ready](#)

Contact: [Christiane Herber-Valdez](#), M.A., Ed.D.

Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, SACSCOC Liaison



Description. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSCPE) is a comprehensive health sciences center with undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs in biomedical sciences, medicine, dental medicine, and nursing. In addition to producing healthcare professionals who are knowledgeable in their respective disciplines, TTUHSCPE aims to develop engaged and productive members of future healthcare teams who are prepared to meet tomorrow's healthcare needs through interdisciplinary collaboration. For these reasons, the TTUHSCPE Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focuses on Interprofessional Education (IPE) through its "TECH Ready" initiative. The mission of the TECH Ready is to prepare TTUHSCPE graduates for success in dynamic healthcare environments through the acquisition of knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors necessary for successful interprofessional teamwork. The QEP topic emerged from several sources of data—surveys, focus groups, utilization statistics and strategic planning processes. Multiple individuals across TTUHSCPE were involved in the development of the QEP topic, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators. These stakeholders are also involved in implementing Tech Ready learning strategies in order to accomplish the desired student learning outcomes.

Student Learning Outcomes. Students who participate in the TECH Ready initiative will be able to:

- work with individuals of other professions to facilitate mutual respect and shared values.
- use the knowledge of their own role and those of other professions to assess and address the healthcare needs of patients and to advance the health of populations.
- communicate with patients, families, communities, and professionals in health and other fields in a responsive and harmonious manner that supports a team approach to the promotion of health and the prevention and treatment of disease.
- apply relationship-building values and principles of team dynamics to effectively plan, deliver and evaluate patient/population-centered care and population health programs and policies that are safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable.

Assessment. A combination of direct and indirect measures is utilized to assess student learning outcomes. Successful achievement of desired outcomes contributes to the broader goal of preparing students to navigate the challenges of complex healthcare systems and enter the workforce ready for interprofessional collaborative practice that helps to ensure the health of individuals and populations.

Strategies for Implementation. TECH Ready employs the following specific strategies:

- Implement IPE educational programming and establish IPE core requirements for the completion of all TTUHSCPE academic programs.
- Establish an organizational support structure for IPE. Central to this infrastructure is the institutional level Office of Interprofessional Education (OIPE).
- Provide central coordination of IPE activities, to include a shared experience and IPE activities beyond the required IPE core requirements, in order to facilitate, monitor and track student participation in IPE across all TTUHSCPE schools.

Institutional Context. TTUHSCPE's primary goals include the provision of quality education and the development of academic research, patient care, and community service programs to meet the healthcare needs of El Paso, West Texas, and the U.S.-Mexico border region. These regions are historically underserved by health professionals due to a number of factors, including geographic isolation, language barriers and high poverty rates. TTUHSCPE aims to address these demands by providing excellence in undergraduate and graduate health-related professional education and by ensuring graduates become the culturally competent and compassionate healthcare professionals needed in the border region.

By selecting IPE for its QEP, TTUHSCPE is building upon its mission, enhancing its academic programming, and demonstrating leadership in healthcare education.