



Enhancing Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Between Nursing and Dental Students Via a Technology Enhanced IPE Model Focused on the Oral-Systemic Health Connection

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ABSTRACT

- The goals of this interdisciplinary collaborative project involving students and faculty from the University of Louisville Schools of Nursing and Dentistry are to advance technology-enhanced interprofessional education and improve access to high quality primary health care, including oral health care for the underserved.

BACKGROUND

- Underserved populations suffer disparities in both their disease burden and access to needed services.
- Limited access to oral health care contributes to poor oral health.
- Of Kentucky adults age 65 and older, 27% have all natural teeth extracted, well above the national average of 18% (CDC).
- Unaddressed oral health care needs are at a critical level in Jefferson County, Kentucky (REACH, 2011).

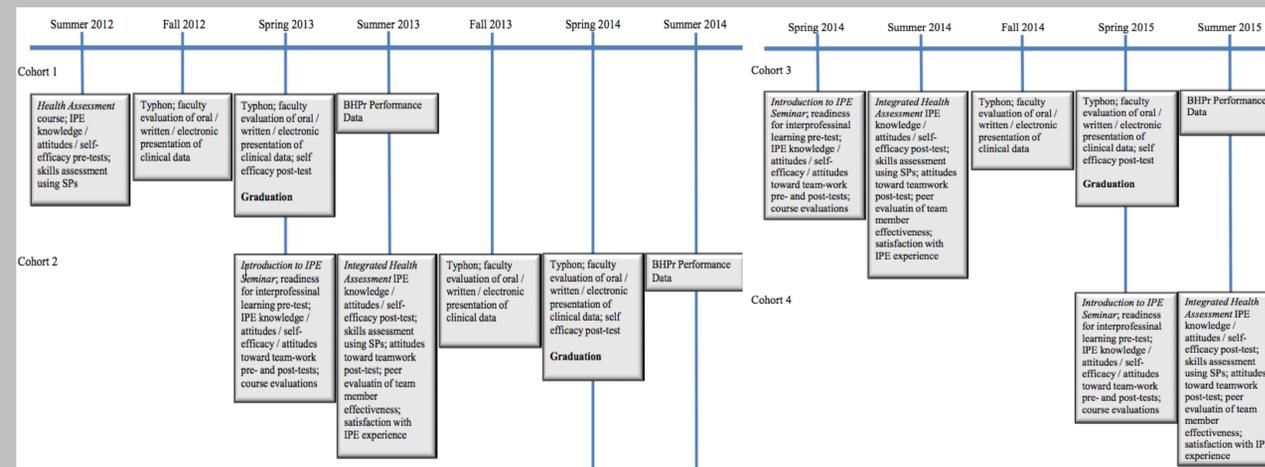
OBJECTIVES

- Implement/evaluate a technology-enhanced Interprofessional Education model to prepare ANP and FNP students and Dental students for interprofessional collaborative practice via team based learning.
- Improve interprofessional communication and collaboration in the identification and management of oral-systemic diseases.
- Change practice patterns in patient assessment, consultation, and management to improve outcomes for the underserved.

METHODS

- Cross-sectional and longitudinal data collection
- Four cohorts of nursing and dental students will be invited to participate
- Cohort #1 cross-sectional comparison group (no IPE): 50 MSN students, 120 dental students, May 2013 graduates
- Cohorts #2-#4 longitudinal: 50 second year MSN students, 120 second year dental students each cohort
- IPE Curriculum plus Integrated Physical Assessment course with pre- and post-test measures

MEASURES



IPE SEMINAR

- A series of face-to-face seminars.
- Online (BlackBoard) peer-to-peer problem-based learning exercises using the Smiles for Life: A National Oral Health Curriculum.
- Emphasis on the importance of collaboration to improve the management of oral-systemic diseases among underserved populations and IPE core competencies.



INTEGRATED HEALTH ASSESSMENT

- Approximately 50% of the material is interprofessional content
- Identification and management of oral-systemic diseases among underserved populations is emphasized
- Students learn to conduct patient interviews and perform physical exams of the head, eyes, ears, nose, throat, neck, cardiovascular, and extremities with standardized patients in interdisciplinary teams
- Students document clinical findings and communicate (oral/written referrals) regarding simulated cases portrayed by standardized patients

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Cohort #1
 - Data collection complete
- Cohort #2
 - Pre-program data collected
 - IPE Seminar delivered
 - Integrated courses in health assessment in progress

DRIVING FORCES

- Health Resources and Services Administration funding
- Supportive deans with dual faculty appointments
- The interprofessional team
- Close proximity of both schools
- Enthusiasm of faculty and students
- Internal marketing and promotion by all faculty
- Shared vision for oral systemic health promotion

CHALLENGES

- Logistics and space
- Disparities in professional developmental levels
- Coordination of curriculum
- Level of student participation in cohort #2
- Lack of knowledge regarding scope of practice



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