

College of Health Professions Interprofessional Education



The College of Health Professions (CHP) aspires to excellence and sustainability in interprofessional scholarship, education, and practice to create models of person-centered healthcare.

The College of Health Professions (CHP) at Pacific University is home to eight schools with numerous health-related graduate professional programs. The CHP is committed to fostering interprofessional education and practice, in accordance with the changing paradigms of patient-centered care. Embracing interprofessional education and practice has guided curricular development and enhancement as well as development of student programs. Students at Pacific University have numerous opportunities to participate in different interprofessional learning experiences and programs that facilitate the embodiment of qualities and skills necessary to practice in a changing health care environment.

Interprofessional Competence Course (IPC)

The Interprofessional Competence Course (IPC) introduces students from each of the health disciplines to interprofessional collaboration. Students work in teams from various health professions, learning about teamwork, professionalism, and interprofessional communication. The course culminates in a service-learning project in which the interprofessional teams work together to serve a population in need. The teams then participate in an annual poster presentation event, in which each team has the opportunity to share their experiences and what they learned through serving in an interprofessional group. Curricular topics include: Roles and responsibilities of health professionals, team dynamics and professionalism, effective communication, and appreciation of differences.

Interprofessional Case Conference (ICC)

The interprofessional Case Conference (ICC) builds upon knowledge gained during the IPC course. The ICC provides a clinical case based learning experience, in which students participate and learn, not only from the faculty members, but from each other as well. ICC conferences are planned and facilitated by interprofessional faculty teams, and provide the students with an opportunity to contemplate patient care in a collaborative way, with each student bringing knowledge of their respective field to the table. Six ICCs are scheduled annually and topics have included eating disorders, chronic pain, and interprofessional care for cancer patients. The ICC provides a different perspective for interprofessional education, with guidance from highly qualified faculty facilitators. Previous topics include: The Aphasia

Network, Anorexia and Aging, The Dizzy Patient, Health and Poverty, and Breast Cancer: Interprofessional Care.

Interprofessional Diabetes Clinic (IDC)

The Interprofessional Diabetes Clinic (IDC) occurs monthly and students from several professions work together to provide care for disadvantaged patients with diabetes. The patients begin with an intake appointment with optometry students, then complete assessments with occupational therapy, physical therapy, dental hygiene, pharmacy, and physician assistant students over two visits. The patient appointments are scheduled according to perceived priority on the patient's behalf, promoting the philosophy of person-centered care. Students accompany their patient to all of their assessments throughout the day. The IDC concludes with a case conference in which students report their findings and work alongside the faculty to plan future care for the patients.

Interprofessional Electives and Clubs

Various schools within the CHP have initiated interprofessional electives, in which students from multiple programs are introduced to areas of concentration while incorporating the perspective of multiple health professions. Examples include Healthcare Spanish and Intermediate Spanish. Past electives include Traumatic Brain Injury. An example of an interprofessional club is the Alliance of Global Student Health Professionals, in which the focus is to develop cross-culture communication skills for health professionals.

Regional and Local Interprofessional Service Learning Projects

The CHP has been very involved in local and regional community clinical service projects. Often, students from multiple programs participate, such as Project Homeless Connect and Health Fairs at local farmer's markets. Other service learning projects provide outreach to specific populations, such as Maryville Nursing Home, Cornell Estates, Special Olympics and local middle and high schools, in which CHP students provide patient education, health education and health services.

Global Outreach: International Interdisciplinary Service Learning Projects

The CHP supports the development of global interprofessional clinical service projects. For example, the CHP currently offers an interdisciplinary travel opportunity to Nicaragua to provide health-related services for Nicaraguan elders. Students provide community-based rehabilitation within the hogars in Nicaragua. Students have the opportunity to practice together, learning from one another while simultaneously providing care to elders in need in a different culture from their own.

Interprofessional Education and Practice Committee (IPEP)

The Interprofessional Education and Practice Committee (IPEP) was created to support and develop innovative interprofessional programming at Pacific University. The Committee's goal is to discuss opportunities to augment and expand interprofessional education and experiences at Pacific University CHP.