

## What is Interdisciplinary Education?

While many definitions explore the distinction between discipline and profession, research and education, our goal is to equally consider each with an emphasis on all learners focusing on collaboration from, with, and about each other.

► The National Academies of Science, and National Science Foundation have an established definition of interdisciplinary research:

"Interdisciplinary research is a mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice."

Committee on Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research, Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy (2004). *Facilitating interdisciplinary research*. National Academies. Washington: National Academy Press, p. 2 and the published full report: *Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research, 2005, National Academies of Sciences, Chapter 2, p 26.*

► The World Health Organization has established a definition of interprofessional education (IPE):

"Interprofessional education occurs when students from two or more professions learn about, from, and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes. Once students understand how to work interprofessionally, they are ready to enter the workplace as a member of the collaborative practice team. This is a key step in moving health systems from fragmentation to a position of strength."

World Health Organization (WHO). (2010). Framework for action on Interprofessional education & collaborative practice. Geneva: World Health Organization. See [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2010/WHO\\_HRH\\_HPN\\_10.3\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2010/WHO_HRH_HPN_10.3_eng.pdf).

OUHSC is committed to the development and expansion of a comprehensive, cohesive, competency-driven menu of interdisciplinary/interprofessional learning experiences for every student at every level. Our work includes the advancement of curricular and co-curricular offerings producing distinctive, practice-ready, collaborative graduates.

## Contact Us

Office of Interdisciplinary Programs  
Office of the Vice Provost for Academic  
Affairs & Faculty Development  
The University of Oklahoma  
Health Sciences Center  
Bird Library, Suite 142  
PO Box 26901  
Oklahoma City, OK 73126  
(405) 271-5557  
OUHSC-IPE@ouhsc.edu  
[https://ouhsc.edu/academicaffairs/  
interprofessionaleducation/](https://ouhsc.edu/academicaffairs/interprofessionaleducation/)



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**FROM,  
ABOUT,  
& WITH  
EACH OTHER**

 The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA  
**Health Sciences Center**

**Interdisciplinary Programs**

**Office of the Vice Provost  
for Academic Affairs &  
Faculty Development**

## Core Competencies



Programming is centered in the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice. Originally released in 2011, and updated in 2016, the Core Competencies provide a framework for all health professions programs.

### Values & Ethics

Work with individuals of other professions to maintain a climate of mutual respect and shared values.

### Roles & Responsibilities

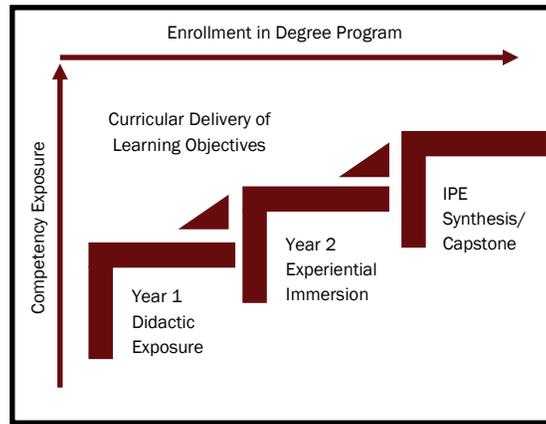
Use the knowledge of one's own role and those of other professions to appropriately assess and address the healthcare needs of the patients and populations served.

### Communication

Communicate with patients, families, communities, and other health professionals in a responsive and responsible manner that supports a team approach to the maintenance of health and the treatment of disease.

### Teams & Teamwork

Apply relationship-building values and the principles of team dynamics to perform effectively in different team roles to plan and deliver patient-/population-centered care that is safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable.



## The Interdisciplinary Program

Learning from past successes, the Interprofessional Educators & Practitioners Association (IEPA) has implemented a two-year curricular model supported by competency-based objectives tested in piloted programming. The result is a flexible curricular “menu” allowing opportunities for degree programs to meet their accreditation needs and student interests.

## Opportunities for Collaboration

► **Students:** Beyond program participation, the IEPA Student-Faculty Committee has opportunities for additional student collaboration to guide future interdisciplinary programming on campus.

► **Faculty & Staff:** Our Curriculum, Faculty Development, and Research initiatives all have exciting projects underway. These opportunities are excellent for networking and enhancing our ability to practice collaboratively.

► **Wisdom Family Foundation IPE Research Seed Grants:** Each spring, the IEPA will accept proposals for unique interdisciplinary, scholarly proposals.

## A Brief History of IPE @ OUHSC

The OUHSC College Deans, Senior Officers and Provost have supported the development and implementation of interdisciplinary and interprofessional programs for over 25 years.

► Previous and continuing interdisciplinary programs include the OUHSC Faculty Leadership Program, the Oklahoma-LEND Program, The Center for Learning and Leadership/UCEDD programs, The Center for Child Abuse and Neglect, the OU-Tulsa Bedlam Clinic, The Reynolds Oklahoma Center on Aging, and many others.

► **2012** Dr. Peggy Wisdom, with the Wisdom Family Foundation, provided support to evaluate the need and the feasibility of OUHSC developing a formal interprofessional education program for health professions students.

The initial pilot clinically-focused program was called EPIC (Empowering Patients Through Interprofessional Collaboration) which allowed students to participate in supervised student-provided patient care.

► **2015** All Professions Day was developed to expand IPE programming focused on the team building concept and interprofessional competencies.

► **2016** The initiative was offered a home in the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs within the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs & Faculty Development.

► **2017** The loosely formed Core Faculty reorganized and named the group the Interprofessional Educators & Practitioners Association (IEPA). IEPA established three working committees: Curriculum, Faculty Development, and Research.

► **2018** IEPA adopted a new, two-year curriculum plan including core experiences committed to the development and expansion of a comprehensive, cohesive, competency-driven menu of interdisciplinary learning experiences for every student at every level. The IEPA added a Student-Faculty Committee charged with developing student-led initiatives.

► As part of the OUHSC Academic Strategic Plan, there is a campus-wide initiative to enhance related faculty capacity building for interdisciplinary/interprofessional education.