

Nutritional Sciences and the OUHSC IPE Clinical Experience

The Office of Interdisciplinary Programs, and the Interprofessional Educators & Practitioners Association, at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, is hosting the 2018-2019 IPE Clinical Experience at Good Shepherd Clinic in Oklahoma City.

Department of Nutritional Sciences



The [OU Department of Nutritional Sciences](#) is one-of-a-kind in Oklahoma and offers a 64-hour, non-thesis professional program. This program prepares students to become Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) who use food to improve the lives of their patients or clients. RDNs work across the spectrum of health and disease,

from developing new methods of food production and food service to preventing disease and enhancing performance in healthy individuals to reducing the burden of disease after diagnosis.

OU's [Coordinated Master of Arts in Dietetics](#) program is unique in Oklahoma because it seamlessly combines classroom instruction with the internship experience. Students take classes at the same time that they complete over 1200 supervised practice hours—what they learn in class, they put immediately into practice. Upon graduation from the program, they are ready to take the national registration exam and become an RDN.

The Clinical Experience

The principle focus of the [OUHSC IPE Clinical Experience](#) is to provide students with an opportunity to reinforce the [IPEC Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice](#). These competencies are Communication, Roles & Responsibilities, Values & Ethics, and Teams & Teamwork. This is accomplished by creating interprofessional teams of students drawn from 15 different degree tracks to provide team-based, patient-centered care at the [Good Shepherd Clinic](#) (GSC) in Oklahoma City. The GSC is located in the Midtown area and services hundreds of uninsured medical and dental patients from throughout central Oklahoma. The experience meets on Thursday evenings through March.

Dietitians & the IPE Clinical Experience

In 2018-2019, four students from the MA in Dietetics program will participate in the IPE Clinical Experience. RDN students provide patient education (in both English and Spanish) and contribute nutrition perspectives during team huddles and debriefs.

The experience also features a “Passport” function where RDN students and other disciplines will travel through the clinic and have an opportunity to visit and observe other professions in action. The intention is for all disciplines to see nutritional sciences in action while allowing RDN students a chance to observe how others provide care.

Teams are provided guidance by Associate Professor Peggy Turner, MS, RD/LD, FAND



Success Stories



Since the very beginning of this project, RDN students have been involved not only providing education to Good Shepherd patients, but also by providing insight to other team members about the roles and responsibilities of nutrition professionals. Former students from medicine, nursing and nutrition worked to provide diabetes education classes. Nutrition students also developed and delivered curriculum for healthy eating classes for this population.

Team members are surprised to find out that nutrition plays such an important role in preventing disease before it begins. It also plays a very important role in reducing complications of diabetes, high blood pressure, as well as liver and kidney disease.

Students from the nutrition program gain valuable experience from their team members as well. By working as a team they learn the importance of providing care for the “whole patient” and not always trying to do what the textbook says. The OUHSC IPE Clinical Experience is definitely a win/win for all.

Invitation to Visit

Faculty are invited to visit the IPE Clinical Experience to observe our student teams in action. Please contact Margaret-Robinson@ouhsc.edu or (405) 271-5557.