

The Next Frontier: Utilizing eLearning as an Innovative Approach to Advance Interprofessionalism

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Abstract

Interprofessional Education (IPE) is when two or more health and social care professions learn with, from, and about each other during all or part of their education/training in order to cultivate collaborative, team-based, and patient-centered healthcare delivery. A majority of IPE leaders and instructors have focused on providing in-person, face-to-face learning activities, programs, and courses. Yet, as with all of education, because of COVID-19 faculty were forced to restructure and pivot their IPE opportunities to online and virtual formats. Although in-person IPE will more than likely remain the desired standard, given the persistent nature of COVID-19 and consistent struggles to integrate face-to-face IPE because of time, space, and attitudinal constraints, it is essential to continue to expand the virtual (clinical) interprofessional learning environment.

The integration of eLearning programs (i.e., online educational and training modules) into existing health professions curriculum utilizes the multidimensional space of education and training without adding new courses to already overburdened curricula, and in turn, evades the stigma of “extra work” or “added on” as it is nested within already occurring coursework and program requirements. Moreover, the (often) asynchronous nature of these programs allows learners of all stages to engage with material at their own pace, meeting learners where they are, and taking into consideration learners’ various work-related and personal roles, responsibilities, and requirements (i.e., CE).

As experts in the field of eLearning designed specifically for advancing Interprofessional Education, the CAIPER team will lead a workshop that outlines a step-by-step “how to” guide to identifying, developing, administering, and marketing/promoting an eLearning program. Participants will have the opportunity to not only map-out the topic(s) and structure of their own interprofessional eLearning program, but also strategize and build their own related business canvas as a first step to launching program development.

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