



A Case-Based Virtual Simulation to Improve Inter-Professional Communication Regarding Patient Safety

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Background

Healthcare today relies on **effective teamwork and communication** to ensure **patient safety**.^{1,2}

Traditionally, healthcare students are educated in **professional silos** that have **different foci of communication**.³

Graduates of healthcare programs are **expected to work** in an inter-professional team and **communicate effectively upon entering the workforce**.

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of this pilot project is to determine if an **online, case-based simulation module** introducing the communication tool CUS, **improves** healthcare professional students' **communication efficacy** and **confidence** and **decreases fear related to communication**.

Methods

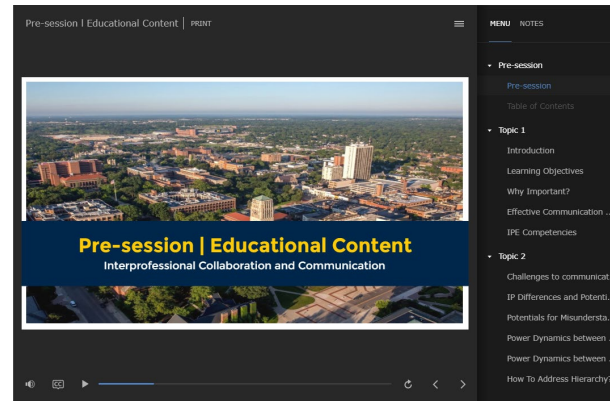
Proposed a **pilot** pre/post single-group **quasi-experimental** design including (**N = 20**)

Phase 1 → Educational Module Development & Virtual Simulated Case Development

Phase 2 → Baseline Survey Administration & Synchronous Online Simulation Session

Phase 3 → Student Post-Session Assessment & Post-Session Reflection

Pre-session Educational Content



Progress to Date

In addition to a fully developed Canvas site, we have also developed discipline specific case scenarios for dyads of health profession students to use in their virtual live simulation. Before the project was interrupted due to COVID-19, we were able to deliver this educational session to one dyad of dental and medical students. **Preliminary Results** revealed students reporting **improvement** in their **self-confidence** and **comfort** with inter-professional communication as well as in their **knowledge** about inter-professional communication.

Next Steps

We plan to complete the pilot in the upcoming weeks/months and publish the results. Results of this project will help emphasize the importance of incorporating inter-professional communication education into healthcare professional curricula. We aim to sustain the use of this curricula by recommending its use in other inter-professional courses at our institution and outside.

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2. Bezemer, J., Korkiakangas, T., Weldon, S. M., Kress, G., & Kneebone, R. (2016). Unsettled teamwork: communication and learning in the operating theatres of an urban hospital. *Journal of advanced nursing*, 72(2), 361-372.
3. Levinson, W., Lesser, C. S., & Epstein, R. M. (2010). Developing physician communication skills for patient-centered care. *Health affairs*, 29(7), 1310-1318.

Course Canvas Page

