INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (IPE)

Interprofessional education, commonly referred to as IPE, occurs when students from two or more professions learn about, from, and with one another to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.

The Quality Enhancement Plan at UT Health San Antonio is called LINC (https://wp.uthscsa.edu/data/linc-ipe/), which is short for Linking Interprofessional Networks for Collaboration. LINC is a university-wide project whereby all schools are collaborating to advance IPE. This collaboration involves administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

The LINC Common IPE Experience (https://wp.uthscsa.edu/data/linc-programs-projects/) is a noteworthy institutional accomplishment. This educational experience serves as a foundation upon which all other IPE activities at UT Health San Antonio, existing and planned, are built. As such, students matriculating into UT Health San Antonio programs each year are included.

The purpose of this university-wide IPE activity is threefold:
(1) Introduce students to IPE at UT Health San Antonio using the IPEC core competency framework (https://www.ipecollaborative.org/ipec-core-competencies/)
(2) Facilitate interprofessional socialization
(3) Prepare students for IPE activities they will experience within their individual programs of study

Students complete the LINC Common IPE Experience in interprofessional groups of 3-4. Interactivity is emphasized as student groups work through 5 hours of instruction that includes interprofessional socialization activities, mini-lectures, illustrated case studies, video case studies, and interprofessional discussions rooted in problem-based learning.

A variety of additional IPE activities are required for UT Health San Antonio students depending on their school and educational program. These IPE activities are described within 12 different school- and program-specific LINC IPE Plans (https://wp.uthscsa.edu/linc/organizational-model/linc-academic-affairs-council/ipe-plans/).

Co-curricular IPE opportunities are also offered at UT Health San Antonio to augment students’ professional development, such as the LINC Interprofessional Case Competition (https://wp.uthscsa.edu/linc/linc-programs-projects/) and the LINC IPE Symposium (https://wp.uthscsa.edu/linc/linc-ipe-symposium/).

Please contact Dr. Joseph Zorek, LINC Director, at zorek@uthscsa.edu to learn more about the Quality Enhancement Plan, LINC Common IPE Experience, LINC IPE Plans, LINC Interprofessional Case Competition, LINC IPE Symposium, and other IPE opportunities at UT Health San Antonio.