

Collaborative Leadership and Action Learning in CHHS Honors Students

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Abstract

The CHHS Honors program is designed to build interprofessional collaboration skills and leadership. The purpose of the study is to explore the experiences of CHHS Honors Students enrolled in HHS 114 (FA15) and HHS 115 (SP16) to determine the extent to which the Program is meeting these objectives with its current curriculum and pedagogical focus. More specifically, the researchers will investigate the experiences of students from multiple disciplines who collaboratively research, develop, and implement an action-learning project to address an identified community need. All CHHS Honors College students will be invited to participate in a focus group about their experiences. After obtaining informed consent, and consistent with focus group procedures, the participating students will be divided into small groups of approximately seven or eight students each. Three (two current and one former) Kinesiology graduate students will conduct the focus groups. (The graduate students will now be referred to as moderators. They will receive training in focus group procedures prior to the data collection.) The focus group interviews will be audiotaped and transcribed verbatim by the moderators. In order to protect the students' anonymity, the moderators will use pseudonyms for the transcription. The transcriptions will be analyzed by the researchers, who are also teaching faculty for HHS 114 and HHS 115 in the current academic year. To protect the students, only the transcription (and not the audiotapes) will be used for data analysis. As a secondary precaution, the transcriptions will be reviewed only after final grades for the HHS 115 class have been assigned. The data will be separated into meaning units and coded consistent with content analysis procedures (Miles & Huberman, 1994). After interrater reliability tests are found to have an acceptable level of agreement (i.e., minimum of 80%), the results will be presented to the CHHS Honors College Council and may be developed into a manuscript to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.