

An Investigation into Perceptions of Interprofessional Education (IPE) within the College of Health and Human Services, Fresno State

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Abstract

The aim of this research was to investigate perceptions and attitudes toward interprofessional education (IPE) within the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS). All faculty were invited, via email, to complete an online modified readiness for interprofessional learning scale (RIPLS). By participating in the survey faculty provided a baseline assessment of current perceptions within the CHHS relating to IPE. Potential risks included psychological concerns regarding the confidentiality of the data. This risk was mitigated by distributing the survey via Qualtrics using the anonymous method/link. Participation was voluntary and survey responses did not contain any demographic information other than the participants department.

Twenty four faculty responded. All items scored greater than 3.7, on a scale of 1-5, suggesting a positive attitude and readiness for IPE. Although the majority of participants appeared to have an accurate understanding that IPE is a learning opportunity in which students learn about, from and with each other, a comment identifying 'guest lecturing' as a form of IPE suggests that not all respondents appreciated the current definition of IPE. It was also evident from one of the comments that the purpose of the survey was unclear, and therefore findings may be inaccurate.

This initial survey suggests that IPE is viewed positively among respondents. Repeating the survey clarifying the purpose and distributing it at a CHHS event may increase the response rate.

Description

This study was conducted as part of the 2013-2014 Faculty Learning Community for Interprofessional Education. The goal was to establish a baseline of attitudes and perceptions within the College of Health and Human Services.