



Faculty of Health Sciences

Interprofessional Education Student Orientation 2020

Each year the Faculty of Health Science facilitates a series of Interprofessional Education or IPE orientation sessions over 3 weeks. Students from the University of the Free State, and the Central University of Technology are introduced to the concept of IPE and collaborate in an environment where students interact and share different knowledge perspectives, and how to apply this knowledge and skills in and interprofessional team to assist and benefit the rural community.

IPE refers to occasions when students from two or more professions in health and social care learn together during all or part of their professional training with the object of cultivating collaborative practice for providing patient-centred health care.

In this year's IPE orientation, 389 students and 35 facilitators from both the University of the Free State and the Central University of Technology participated. The faculties and departments involved were:

University of the Free State:

Faculty of Health Sciences
School of Allied Health Professions
Biokinetics
Physiotherapy
Nutrition and Dietetics
Occupational Therapy

School of Clinical Medicine

School of Nursing

Faculty of Humanities
Social Work

Central University of Technology:

Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences
Programme: Radiography

The students were divided into 35 groups where each group had one or more students from the various departments listed above, and a facilitator to lead and guide the program. The students spent three weeks working together as part of their interprofessional education where various activities were presented to equip the students to work within the rural community.

The first week was the orientation of the program (Figure 1), where students and facilitators were introduced to each other, and how each profession would collaborate to ensure person-centred healthcare. Each student explained the role and service provided in the healthcare system, and how the profession would be off assistance to the rural health community.



Figure 1 IPE 2020 Welcoming and Orientation

In the second week, standardised patients formed part of an IPE simulation session. Students collaboratively interacted with the patient to create an interprofessional health plan. Students had to apply the principles of person-centeredness, health dialogue and the International Classification of Functioning and ensure the patient is treated with respect and quality healthcare is provided. Students were also assigned a task to create a digital story of their interprofessional journey. During the final week of IPE, students were introduced to Faculty of Health Sciences Rural Community Initiative and Community Based Education as seen in Figure 3.



Figure 3 Students are introduced to the Faculty of Heal Sciences Rural Community Initiative

The Office of Community Based Education and Rural Health would like to express appreciation for the support and collaboration of all departments involved in the successful implementation of this year's IPE.