



Faculty of Health Sciences

Interprofessional Education Student Orientation 2023

In 2023 the Faculty of Health Science could resume the pre-COVID-19 series of in-person Interprofessional Education or IPE orientation sessions. 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, 313 students and 19 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 Clinical Medicine

*School of Health and Rehabilitation
Professions*

Biokinetics
Physiotherapy
Nutrition and Dietetics
Occupational Therapy

School of Nursing

Central University of Technology:

***Faculty of Health and Environmental
Sciences***

Programme: Radiography

In 2023, the same in-person session was repeated over two weeks, thus session two was a repeat of session one allowing for flexibility as it relates to the schedules of the different academic structures.

The students were divided into 18 groups per week where each group had one or more students from the various departments listed above, and a facilitator to lead and guide the program. During these facilitated session students and facilitators participated in various activities to equip the students to work as an interprofessional group within the rural community.

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). Student groups had to create a visual representation of IPE (Figure 2).



Figure 1 IPE 2023 Welcoming and Orientation



Figure 2 IPE 2023 Students' visual presentation

Weekly Simulation

Standardised patients formed part of the weekly IPE simulation session that students have to attend the Friday before going to the FHSRCI. 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.

