

Call for Courses or Learning Activities Promoting Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Education

Background

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Health Sciences Council is committed to improving opportunities for interdisciplinary health sciences education. In 2003, the Health Sciences Council accepted the recommendation from the Committee on Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Curriculum and Student Affairs (IHSC) to identify a uniform, dedicated time slot in the curricula of all health sciences programs for courses and other structured learning activities aimed at promoting interdisciplinary health sciences education. This time slot (Mondays, 4:30 to 6:30 pm) will be available with the opening of the Health Sciences Learning Center (Fall, 2004).

The purpose of this IHSC call for courses is two-fold:

1. To identify existing courses or structured learning activities that promote interdisciplinary health sciences education that can be scheduled into the uniform, dedicated time slot starting in Fall 2004.
2. To encourage the development of new, or modification of current courses or structured learning activities aimed at promoting interdisciplinary health sciences education, which can be scheduled into the dedicated interdisciplinary education time slot starting in Fall 2004.

All courses or structured learning activities (such as seminars, case studies, competitions, or discussion groups), considered for scheduling in the uniform, dedicated time slot must meet the IHSC criteria for interdisciplinary health sciences education (described below). The primary subject material/content for the course or activity must be applicable to multiple health science disciplines.

Assistance with the design or adaptation of courses or activities is available to faculty/instructors on request to the Education Subcommittee (see contact information below). In addition, a three part, case-based learning module designed to introduce

students to the basic concepts of interdisciplinary health care teamwork, cultural competency, and communication skills is available for inclusion in courses. This module is available via email request (mbumann@wisc.edu) and will be available on the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Curriculum Committee Website: <http://projects.hsl.wisc.edu/ihsc/>.

Criteria for Interdisciplinary Courses or Structured Learning Activities

1. Interdisciplinary health sciences education is an explicit design element of the course or activity.
2. Interdisciplinary health sciences education content in the course or activity includes these three components:
 - a. Introduction to interdisciplinary health care team concepts
 - b. Experiential or active learning opportunities
 - c. Reflective or debriefing components
3. The primary subject matter of the course has application for multiple health sciences disciplines targeted for the course.
4. The interdisciplinary content is integral to the primary subject matter of the course.
5. The justification for teaching course concepts in an interdisciplinary manner is clearly and explicitly stated and reflected in course objectives.
6. Prerequisites do not exclude potential students from any of the health sciences disciplines.

Procedure:

Consideration of a course or activity for scheduling into the dedicated time slot requires faculty/instructors to submit the following materials to the Education Subcommittee of the IHSC: 1) a course syllabus or proposal, and 2) a statement describing how the course or activity meets the above criteria. Responses to the following questions will help determine if the course or activities fulfill the interdisciplinary health sciences education criteria.

Questions:

1. How does this course model interdisciplinary teamwork?
2. What disciplines will contribute to the development, planning and teaching of the material?
3. How does the design of the course or activity represent the disciplinary perspectives of all involved faculty?
4. How does this course or activity employ the following three core course components?
 - a. Introduction to interdisciplinary health care team (IHCT) concepts
 - b. Experiential and/or active learning component
 - c. Reflective and/or debriefing component
5. How does the primary subject matter apply to all the disciplines targeted for enrollment in the course?
6. How does this course integrate the interdisciplinary content with the primary subject matter?
7. How do the course objectives communicate the rationale for teaching course concepts in an interdisciplinary way?
8. Do the prerequisites for this course exclude any health sciences students?
9. Are the interdisciplinary learning outcomes clear and measurable?

Timeline

To be considered for scheduling for Fall, 2004, materials must be submitted via electronic files to the Education Subcommittee (Mary Carson-Bumann AHEC, 608-261-1509, mbumann@wisc.edu) by December 21, 2003. Review of courses or activities proposed for future semesters will be ongoing starting in January 2004.