Strategic Plan for the Development of a Master’s of Science in Interprofessional Healthcare Education Degree at a Private Medical College

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Background

- In 2017/18, an institutional Leadership Academy capstone project at a private medical college resulted in the development of a strategic plan for a new Master’s of Science degree in Interprofessional Healthcare Education.
- The degree will give learners advanced education in curriculum and instruction, leadership and administration, and educational research and evaluation.
- The plan includes a strategy to obtain financial and administrative commitments of support for program development and operation, identify institution’s program goals and constraints, curriculum design, learner assessment and remediation, faculty and course evaluation, and program marketing.

Methods

- Six employees of a private medical college under executive sponsorship from the Senior Associate Dean of the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) and mentorship of the Associate Dean in the OAA met numerous times in the 2017/18 academic year to create a strategic plan for the Master’s degree.
- Each member was individually responsible for key strategic plan elements such as curriculum, finance, marketing, and logistics. The plan was presented to the institution’s President and Dean.

Results

- The hybrid program of study includes a flexible learner timeline with a two-year completion average.
- Thirty credits of core and elective courses were required whereby the first 15 credits of core courses lead to a certificate, and the completion of the remaining 15 credits of elective courses lead to the degree.
- Most coursework is online, but required annual on-campus week-long retreats with workshops and active learning sessions give learners and instructors the chance to personally interact.
- An end-of-program comprehensive project includes a cumulative examination, capstone project, or Master’s thesis.

Core Courses (15 Credits)
- Interprofessional Education
- Fundamentals of Adult Learning
- Competency-Based Curriculum
- Measurement and Evaluation
- Research and Methodology

Advanced Courses (15 Credits)
- Instructional Design in Interprofessional Education
- Interprofessional Community Health
- Interprofessional Trends and Issues
- Simulations in Interprofessional Education
- Patient Safety and Interprofessional Practice

Conclusion

- A strategic plan was developed for a new Master’s of Science degree in Interprofessional Healthcare Education at a private medical college.

Reflections

- Learners with graduate degrees in Interprofessional Healthcare Education will be able to develop numerous elements of interprofessional education in existing curricula.

Proposal Summary

- In 2017/18, an institutional Leadership Academy Capstone Project at a private medical college resulted in the development of a strategic plan for a new Master’s of Science degree in Interprofessional Healthcare Education.