

What is UW Health Sciences?

Health Sciences at the University of Washington is comprised of six schools: Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Social Work. Each is nationally recognized for excellence in teaching, research and professional training. Together they are committed to training collaborative health professionals who will work together to improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities — locally and globally.

What is “Transforming UW Health Education”?

Transforming UW Health Education is the UW Health Sciences Interprofessional Education Initiative. Sponsored by six Deans, this multiyear effort of the UW’s health sciences schools seeks to transform health sciences education and advance healthcare by focusing on cross-disciplinary teamwork to benefit the people served. The initiative will:

- Better integrate educational curriculums and training opportunities for faculty, staff, students and other trainees across the UW health sciences schools
- Enhance the training and practice programs (such as rotations, mentorships and field work) that focus on collaboration
- Create built environments that encourage formal and informal interaction between students and faculty across the health sciences schools
- Provide an educational environment with a focus on keeping our health sciences schools and students ahead of the knowledge curve in this ever-changing healthcare environment, amid complex local, regional, national and global health challenges

Ultimately, our students will learn across health disciplines, drawing upon multiple skillsets, research and training. When they graduate, they will have a collaborative, integrated, team-based foundation to help them solve the health issues of the 21st century.

Why undertake this initiative now?

Since the 1990s, faculty members have advanced initiatives from various UW health schools that promote practical education opportunities that combine the respective skillsets required in each field. As a result, UW Health Sciences has been a national leader in interprofessional health sciences education. However, we have never had a formal effort supported by the deans of all six health sciences schools — until now.

Based on the public’s needs and the Affordable Care Act, now is the time to align UW health profession education with the national priority of improving the quality, safety, access, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of healthcare. *Transforming UW Health Education* will allow us to better respond to our rapidly changing and increasingly complex global health environment and to evolving consumer needs. It will help ensure that our UW Health Sciences program remains a national leader in team-based education, attracting the most forward-thinking, patient-focused students and faculty.

Our current facilities and resources are not sufficient to support this effort. Full implementation of *Transforming UW Health Education* will require new and refined teaching and learning skills, curriculum transformation, a new generation of teachers and practitioners who think and act interprofessionally, and an innovative approach to learning spaces. It will also require engaging our campus and community partners.

How will this effort benefit served individuals, families and communities (local to global)?

When health care professionals work in their respective silos, they miss opportunities to share expertise and context. This approach can adversely affect the quality of health care, is less efficient, and often more expensive. *Transforming UW Health Education* is committed to changing the culture so that the focus among health care practitioners is always on working together for the benefit of the people served.

Effective team-based education serves not only served individuals but also the entire community. Our goal is to ensure that collaborative practice with a focus on teamwork is the norm. This will entail creating systems and policies that lead to improved health outcomes, a more efficient and better health care system, communities that better sustain well-being, and a better individual experience.

How will “Transforming UW Health Education” be implemented?

- Implementation will occur in two- to three-year phases over the next decade. We are now in the planning stage.
- The first phase will begin September 2013 with expansion of existing integrative education events into an integrated curriculum that involves all six Health Sciences Schools.
- Phase Two will start in September 2014 with implementation of new piloted interprofessional education initiatives.
- We will work to revise or replace current curriculum and prepare more of our faculty and mentors to teach and practice collaboratively using newly remodeled interprofessional education spaces.
- Each phase will scale to available resources (space, people, knowledge) and respond to lessons learned along the way.

How can I help?

This multiyear effort will require commitment from UW students and faculty, community leaders, the mentors of our students and trainees, and those who employ our graduates. Please consider helping to improve the future of health care and the well-being of communities by becoming involved in one or more of the following ways:

- Participate in the periodic surveys for students and faculty found at: _____
- Offer to attend a student or faculty focus group by contacting: _____
- Follow and engage in our multiyear implementation by sharing your ideas, encouraging needed changes, and lending your support.
- Become an IPE faculty expert: attend quarterly teaching seminars on teaching skills specific to IPE starting autumn 2013.
- Join the about to be organized IPE Student Advisory Committee
- Join our email list to hear about IPE events, new resources, and teaching opportunities @ XXX.