

Interprofessional Education Research and Evaluation Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

March 2013

PURPOSE

The purpose of the HSERC Interprofessional (IP) Education Research and Evaluation Group is to conduct educational research and evaluate IP educational experiences at the University of Alberta throughout the continuum of the IP Learning Pathway. Activities will include development of an IP evaluation framework, review/implementation and evaluation of existing and future IP courses or IP learning experiences, development of research grants, and dissemination of IP educational research. A secondary benefit is to provide peer support and advice for individuals (including graduate students) committed to developing, conducting and disseminating interprofessional educational research at the University of Alberta.

MEMBERSHIP

Initial membership will be limited to founding members of the Integrating Interprofessional Education Competencies (IPEC) project team. All founding members will be members at the University of Alberta. The membership will be reviewed annually. Additional members may be invited to join in the future. These members may come from the within or outside the University of Alberta and to reflect the interprofessional focus of the team would be welcomed from other disciplines. Additional members may only join the group with the unanimous agreement of all existing members.

The essential characteristic shared by all members is a commitment to planning, conducting and completing interprofessional educational research: a mere interest in education is not a criterion sufficient for membership.

HOW OFTEN DOES THIS GROUP MEET?

We meet once a month, excluding the months of July and August, making 10 meetings per year. Meetings will last for up to 2 hours.

WHO WILL ATTEND MEETINGS OF THIS GROUP?

Only members of the group are entitled to attend its meetings. The members may occasionally agree to invite selected individuals to present on a specific topic, to participate in group discussions or to be considered for membership.

In addition to the monthly meetings, and with the agreement of all group members, additional meetings may be arranged from time to time for a larger group of individuals who are interested in interprofessional education but who are not engaged in education research. Attendance at these additional meetings will not constitute membership of the group.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF GROUP MEMBERS?

Group members are expected to attend at least six (6) meetings per year. Group members are expected to bring the following types of research-related materials to meetings for discussion with other members:

- written research ideas
- research proposals
- grant applications
- drafts of above
- drafts of research papers
- drafts of conference presentations
- referees' comments and responses
- any other materials relating to members' research activities directly related to the activities above.

It is anticipated that there will be time for research materials from up to two (2) members to be reviewed at each meeting. At initial meetings, members are all expected to bring their work along. Later, there may be a schedule drawn up to determine whose work is discussed at each meeting, and materials may be sent out to members a few days in advance for review before the meeting. Members are expected to have at least reviewed these materials briefly before attending meetings.

Attendance to comment on others' ideas and to exchange information on interprofessional education is not sufficient – members are expected to use these meetings to advance their own research projects. Members are expected to be able to present their research materials to the group with or without audiovisual assistance, and to apply the principles of critical review and analysis to each others' work and ideas. An open, supportive atmosphere of constructive criticism is expected of all members. Members are also expected to share information on new developments in interprofessional education research, grant deadlines and new grants opportunities.

External evidence of the success of this group's activities will be successful grant applications, completion of research projects, and publication of educational research in peer-reviewed journals.

WILL THIS GROUP PUBLISH JOINTLY?

Yes. The group will draw up a document, for each submission, which will describe the type and level of contribution which will be required before a member can be considered as a co-author on submissions. If due to unforeseen circumstances, an agreed upon contribution cannot be fulfilled, it is expected that the person will communicate this to the group to ensure the project or manuscript deadline can be met.