

# Let's COEPA Collaborate!

## Best Practices for Interprofessional Education Programs, Curricula, and Assessment

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### BACKGROUND

A proliferation of articles describe the importance of interprofessional education (IPE) to promote a **collaborative practice-ready workforce**.

As pharmacy programs **implement, develop, and assess impactful IPE activities** and experiences in their didactic and experiential curricula, **it is important to consider various frameworks**, including the recently released 2022 Curriculum Outcomes and Entrustable Professional Activities (COEPA),<sup>1</sup> 2023 Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) Competencies,<sup>2</sup> and draft 2025 Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) Standards.<sup>3</sup>

*The purpose of this study was to review best practices for high-quality interprofessional education (IPE) with consideration given to these recently released frameworks.<sup>1-3</sup>*

### METHODS

A review of best practices in the IPE literature was conducted to identify important **considerations for building and sustaining** high-quality interprofessional education programs.

The **2022 COEPA**<sup>1</sup> outlines several important educational outcomes for pharmacy education, including a key element necessary for contemporary **“interprofessional collaboration”** pharmacy practice.

The **draft 2025 ACPE Standards**<sup>3</sup> further emphasize the importance of interprofessional education, outlining expectations for students to participate in **both didactic and experiential IPE activities guided by the IPEC Competencies**.<sup>2</sup>

The **2023 IPEC Competencies**<sup>2</sup> framework outlines key domains and sub-domains essential for developing **collaborative practice-ready graduates** across all health professions.

### RESULTS

#### 1. Institutional Readiness

*The IPEC Institutional Assessment Instrument (IAI) assesses institutional capacity on three factors: (1) institutional infrastructure, (2) institutional commitment, and (3) use of the IPEC Competency framework.<sup>4</sup>*

#### 2. Institutional Culture

*Evaluate any incongruence in institutional policies and infrastructures which may hinder adequate provision of IPE (eg, promotion and tenure guidelines, workload calculations, governance structure, faculty recognition, curricular scheduling, physical space).*

#### 3. Infrastructure

*Elucidate existing structures to support IPE (eg, committees, centers, Director of IPE) and identify strategies for institution-wide organizational structure.*

#### 4. Financial Considerations

*Audit the internal financial model (eg, budget, revenue generating streams) to identify and remedy any barriers. Resource commitment should be considered. Three funding models have been described: (1) centralized, (2) blended, and (3) decentralized.<sup>5</sup>*

#### 5. Faculty Development

*Effective faculty development is essential, including: (1) grass-roots, just-in-time faculty development trainings; (2) institutional trainings, which convey institutional commitment; and (3) external resources, such as the IPEC Faculty Development Institute.*

#### 6. Curricular Programming

*Intentional IPE programming and coordination with participating programs is essential. Best practices include threading activities throughout curricula, developing didactic and experiential learning activities, and supporting supplemental co-curricular experiences.*

#### 7. Outcomes Assessment

*The Nexus database<sup>6</sup> includes 50 IPE measurement tools. Best practices include consideration for Kirkpatrick's level of evaluation, self-evaluation vs. observer-based evaluation, individual vs. team evaluation, and alignment with IPEC Competencies.*

Figure 1. Seven Best Practices for IPE

### CONCLUSIONS

Equipping learners with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to **work effectively as part of an interprofessional team** is key to **developing a collaborative practice-ready pharmacy workforce**.

In alignment with the recent **2023 IPEC Competencies**,<sup>2</sup> **2022 COEPA**,<sup>1</sup> and **2025 ACPE Standards**,<sup>3</sup> colleges and schools of **pharmacy should leverage best practices** that lead to successful, high-quality IPE.

**Seven factors were identified as best practices** to ensure advancement and innovation in IPE.

**The Nexus database provides an extensive collection** of assessment and evaluation tools.<sup>6</sup> Future initiatives should advance efforts to promote IPE assessment resources with a focus on individual assessment to **develop collaborative practice-ready graduates**.

### REFERENCES

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