

Translating Curricular Values into Decision Making Principles for Curricular Transformation



Child Health Associate / Physician Assistant Program
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Kirsten Broadfoot PhD, Jonathan Bowser MS, PA-C, Jacqueline Sivahop EdD, PA-C
University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus

PURPOSE

- Curricular values are fundamental to the construction of meaningful learning environments, program activities and goals, and processes of shared curricular decision making.
- Discussions of how curricular values are operationalized during curricular transformation is scarce in medical education, with most discussions focused on structural or content elements, and values left as vague, idealistic statements within larger change models.¹⁻⁵
- Many established PA programs are engaged in or contemplating curricular change.
- This poster describes how an established PA program undergoing large-scale curriculum transformation created and translated values-guided curricular design into practice.

THE DESIGN JOURNEY

2013-
VISIONING AND
CREATION

2015 –
OPERATIONALIZATION

2018 –
CONSOLIDATION
AND TRANSLATION

- Cognitive overload, concerns for student wellbeing
- **Appreciative Inquiry exercise, discussion, and review of educational literature**
- First 5 values created: integrated, learner-centered, competency-based, clinical, and creative.

- Recreated current nomenclature for values, added descriptive statements and examples.
- Dialectical tensions in values
- Added sustainability as a sixth value.

- Final 6 curricular values of integration, learner-centeredness, competency-based, contextualized learning, adaptability and sustainability.
- **Posters** of the values exist in key decision-making venues and guide faculty decisions.

EVOLVING OUTCOMES & MEASUREMENT



DISCUSSION

- Translating values into practice is time and labor intensive.
- Primary values for curricular design and rollout = integration and learner-centeredness
- Values currently under refinement in application = contextualized learning and competency based.
- Creating internal and external processes, messages and practices of accountability and quality assurance enables a dynamic dialogue between curricular values and partners.
- Values often come into conflict when proposing changes or making decision
- Sustainability has become an 'uber-value' to innovate dynamically and feasibly.

NEXT STEPS

- There is tremendous potential for efficiency and coherence in creating a set of guiding principles (curricular values) to use as a lens through which to consider all potential innovations in both new and developing programs.
- As coordinating and orienting mechanisms for curricular change, values provide a common vocabulary and set of goals which can sustain curricular, program and faculty coherence and cohesion.
- Objective measures for each value domain are the next step of construction to assure a values driven curriculum.

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