



Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

The mission of Cabarrus College of Health Sciences is to create progressive educational experiences that enable learners to be knowledgeable, skillful and competent health sciences professionals. For the past 70 years, the College has grown from a diploma nursing school to a college of health sciences. Throughout our history, we have consistently focused our energy into shaping our students to become caring and compassionate healthcare professionals.

In light of our mission, we proudly present the Cabarrus College of Health Sciences Quality Enhancement Plan: **Enhancing Cultural Competence in Healthcare Delivery.**

The next generation of healthcare providers will increasingly experience attitudes, values, beliefs, and health behaviors of diverse populations. These healthcare providers must be enabled to respond appropriately with competent patient-centered care. Developing cultural competence is a long-term experiential process best learned through numerous personal encounters and subsequent critical reflection.

Our journey toward establishing cultural competence as our highest student learning priority involved the collective efforts of faculty, staff, students, alumni and employers. Through in-depth research and considerable debate, we determined that structured service learning experiences, reflective writing exercises, and learning activities spread across the curriculum would best foster the development of our students' cultural competence.

We believe we have successfully constructed a model that bridges didactic instruction with empirical experiences that in time will enhance the cultural competence of our students. Our plan is rooted in theory, research, and best practices. Ultimately, we will observe and assess the outcomes of our plan, enabling us to explore new, and perhaps better avenues for enhancing cultural competence in healthcare delivery.

Contact:

Donna Cline, RN, M.Ed.

Assistant Dean for Academic Operations

donna.cline@carolinashealthcare.org