

Executive Summary of the Quality Enhancement Plan

Medical University of South Carolina Creating Collaborative Care (C³)

The focus of C³ on interprofessional education responds to the fact that today's health care system is highly complex and involves interaction of many different health care professionals to provide optimal patient care and advance biomedical research. This project will establish the framework for redesigning MUSC's formal and informal educational programs in its six colleges (dentistry, graduate studies, health professions, medicine, nursing, and pharmacy) whereby future graduates not only continue to excel in the academic challenges of their own chosen profession, but also excel in today's intricate interprofessional health care system.

As suggested by an increasing number of articles, most notably in a series of reports by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), an improved health care system should be safe, effective, patient centered, timely and efficient. One of these recommendations deals with preparing the health care workforce with emphasis on interprofessional teamwork as a necessary approach to increase patient safety and improve health care delivery. From an educational perspective, this plan offers a continuum of knowledge and teambuilding experiences with each step motivated by four inter-dependent goals:

Goal 1: Students will acquire a set of defined teamwork competencies -- knowledge, values, attitudes, personal and interprofessional skills, principles, beliefs and standards

Goal 2: Students will acquire knowledge, including the values and beliefs, of health professions different from their own discipline that will enable them to define interprofessional health care delivery or research

Goal 3: Students will apply their teamwork competencies in a collaborative interprofessional health care delivery or research learning setting

Goal 4: Students will demonstrate their teamwork competencies in a collaborative interprofessional health care delivery or translational research contexts.

These goals will be achieved through a carefully structured organization that focuses on four primary domains: formal curriculum; informal extracurricular activities; faculty development; Clinical Effectiveness and Patient Safety. Each domain has a Team Leader who will report to the C³ Director who has overall responsibility for the initiative within the Office of the Associate Provost for Education and Student Life. A Council, chaired by a senior academic officer, will be established to assist the Director in reviewing progress, resolving major barriers, and addressing major changes/improvements. Also an Assessment Team will provide objective analyses to issues requested by the Associate Provost, the Council and/or the Director. One of its primary tasks will be to assess the progress of the plan regarding stated C³ objectives.

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