

Institution

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas (UT Southwestern)

Title of Quality Enhancement Plan

Convergence

Contact

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Executive Summary

Convergence is a university-wide initiative to enhance the quality of our students' educational experience by providing activities aimed at interprofessional development and communication. UT Southwestern is a leading academic medical center offering students and trainees the opportunity to learn from eminent leaders in the medical sciences. The Center includes three degree-granting institutions: UT Southwestern Medical School, UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and UT Southwestern School of Health Professions. We train physicians, biomedical scientists, and health care professionals of the future.

Convergence will create new learning communities, Science of Medicine Interest Groups (SMIGs) in the graduate school and Interprofessional Development, Education & Active Learning teams (IDEAL) in the health professions school. **Convergence** will expand existing learning communities, the Academic Colleges in the medical school. Over the course of a year, each learning community will participate in activities focused on a specific science of medicine theme, such as cancer. Annual science of medicine themes will be selected in areas of excellence at UT Southwestern, thus providing depth and expertise to support the development of instructional content for the learning communities. Communication skills will be cultivated within learning communities through student presentations and assessments. Twice a year, *all* of the learning communities will converge to participate in Learning Community Days, focused on interprofessional and lay public communication about the annual science of medicine theme.

Convergence will enhance students' learning by improving their knowledge and understanding of health issues and common diseases and their ability to communicate this knowledge to peers, professionals, patients and the public. **Convergence** will bridge our educational silos through these interprofessional learning communities, resulting in greater communication within our institution and with the public. **Convergence** is enhanced by concentration on the science of medicine, thereby linking our strengths in patient care and research with our educational mission.

Convergence website: <http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/convergence>