



# INTERPROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION: THERE'S NO "I" IN TEAM!

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## BACKGROUND

The Joint Commission reports communication errors as a leading cause of sentinel events in the U.S. Breakdown in communication across various health fields has been attributed to a lack of teamwork amongst healthcare professionals. To foster interprofessional teamwork, in 2017, an interprofessional case study event was conducted with undergraduate nursing, nutrition, childlife, social work, and OT/PT students at Tennessee Technological University.



## PURPOSE

The purpose of this quantitative, one group (n=65) pre/post test research study was to determine the effects of undergraduate interprofessional educational opportunities on students' perceptions of interprofessional teamwork.

## METHODS

The case study event consisted of nursing, nutrition, childlife, social work, and OT/PT students at Tennessee Technological University. We gathered data using the SPICE-R2 Instrument to gather quantitative data regarding students' perceptions of interprofessional team-based practice. The self-report survey was administered before and after the interprofessional case study event to compare pre-event and post-event scores. Our results support statistically significant improvement in students' perceptions of teamwork.

## DATA ANALYSIS

	Pre-Test Scores Mean (SD)	Effect Size	Post-test Scores Mean (SD)	Effect Size
Nursing students (n=44)	18.02 (1.9)	0.17	19.45 (0.9)	0.35
Other Healthcare students (n=21)	18.35 (1.3)		19.10 (1.0)	

Using the Independent t-test, there was no statistically significant difference between groups in students' pretest Interprofessional Teamwork scores ( $t_{(59)} = 0.66, p=0.51$ ); thus, there was homogeneity between the 2 groups' pretest scores. There was no statistically significant difference in students' post-test Interprofessional Teamwork scores as compared to other healthcare students' scores ( $t_{(61)} = 1.32, p=0.19$ ).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend these events be included in health science students' educations semesterly.

## CONCLUSION

These results indicate the interprofessional case study event helped students' understanding of the importance of collaboration in the healthcare setting. This increased perception of the value of interprofessional teamwork may result in safer healthcare environments for patients.



## REFERENCES

### Acknowledgements:

Dr. Susan E. Piras  
Danny Miller RN

### Images:

[http://www.uoftmeds.com/images/Student\\_Health\\_Team.jpg](http://www.uoftmeds.com/images/Student_Health_Team.jpg)  
<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/d8/05/45/d80545c4ac5cdfaa5dfbb4428ff431f4.jpg>  
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