Interprofessional Education in Canadian Post-Secondary Institutions

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Background

Interprofessional Education (IPE) is widely recognized as an educational strategy in which "students from two or more professions learn about, from, and with each other" (WHO, 2010, p. 7). Over the past decade, IPE has been systematically integrated into post-secondary education both in Canada and internationally. The purpose of this study was to explore the current state of IPE at Canadian post-secondary institutions and identify how it is defined, implemented, and integrated across disciplines, particularly considering perspectives from the social sciences and humanities.

Most Common Words in IPE Definitions

Methodology

This report investigated how Canadian post-secondary institutions are implementing IPE by conducting an **environmental scan** and **interviews** with key representatives. The **web scan**, conducted between April-October 2023, and interviews, held from June to December 2023, gathered data from 16 faculty and staff across Eastern, Central, and Western Canada.

Results

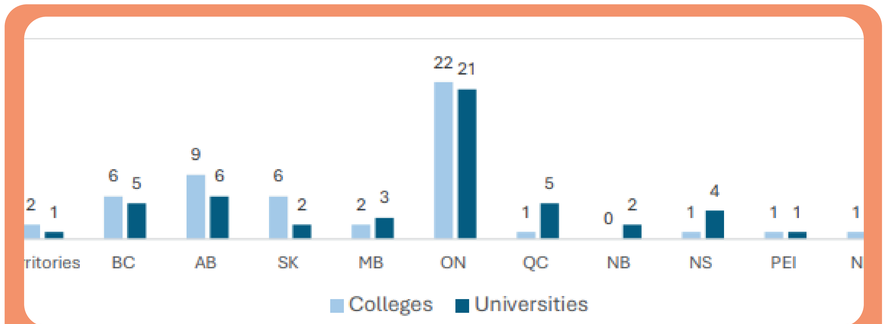
The most frequently cited framework was the **CIHC Competency Framework**, referenced by 36% of programs to guide interprofessional collaboration and learning . Other frameworks mentioned included the WHO Framework for Action on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice and the Accreditation of Interprofessional Health Education (AIPHE) Standards Guide .

Framework	College	University	Total
CIHC/CPIS (Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative)	9 (26%)	14 (47%)	23 (36%
WHO (World Health Organization)	3 (9%)	1 (3%)	4 (7%)
AIPHE (Accreditation of Interprofessional Health Education)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	1 (2%)
IPE Skills Training Series Model	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	1 (2%)
Program-specific IPE framework	1 (3%)	5 (17%)	6 (10%
Other disciplinary accreditation standards	1 (3%)	0	1 (2%)
Other disciplinary framework	3 (3%)	5 (17%)	8 (13%
No framework listed	33 (33%)	30 (29%)	63 (62%

Frameworks Referenced on IPE Websites

Results Cont.

The study identified IPE offerings at 102 publicly funded Canadian post-secondary institutions, categorized into **programs (42%)**, **courses (32%)**, and **events/workshops (25%)**. Nearly a quarter of these offerings were mandatory components within academic programs, while the majority were optional, such as elective courses or extracurricular workshops. Centralized IPE programs typically included integrated coursework and co-curricular activities, often supported by dedicated IPE offices.



IPE Programs in Canadian Provinces

Next Phases

The next phases of the research include **surveying and interviewing community service providers** in health and social service fields who supervised student placements or work-integrated learning between 2022 and 2024. Additionally, the study will evaluate the **preparedness for practice of recent graduates** from Canadian post-secondary IPE programs who have been working in their professions for six months to one year.

References

World Health Organization[WHO]. (2010, September 1). Framework for action on interprofessional education & collaborative practice.

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