

Healthy Perspectives: Better Healthcare through Better Understanding

Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary, Georgia Health Sciences University

Georgia Health Science University's (GHSU) QEP - **Healthy Perspectives: Better health care through better understanding** - is designed to provide students, faculty, and staff with the attitudes, knowledge, and skills necessary to develop cultural competency in the context of an academic health center. The learning acquired through the Healthy Perspectives project will ultimately enable the participants to 1) provide more culturally appropriate patient- and family-centered care, 2) assist in reducing disparities in health and health care, and 3) improve quality and safety of care of Georgia's and our nation's increasingly diverse population.

Cultural Competency learning objectives and activities will be incorporated into the curricula of GHSU College of Allied Health Sciences, College of Dental Medicine, Medical College of Georgia, and College of Nursing. The specific core learning objectives were established following a comprehensive review of evidence-based literature, existing and emerging national accreditation requirements and best practices in education.

The educational model contains both discipline-specific and inter-professional educational methods/activities that include online modules, practice in simulated environments, and application in clinical settings. The implementation of Healthy Perspectives involves the entire academic health center in order to broaden awareness of the project and accentuate the

importance of the content throughout the organization. The project will be rigorously evaluated, formative and summative, following a comprehensive, multi-level assessment plan as part of the continuous improvement cycle.

Healthy Perspectives is administratively organized under the Office of the Provost and is led by the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion. The Healthy Perspectives Office has been established with a QEP Director, a full-time faculty member and support from administrative staff of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Additional hiring of full and part-time faculty members is on-going and carefully guided by the implementation plan. A Healthy Perspectives Advisory Council has been established that represents a wide-ranging group of academic and administrative key stakeholders of the QEP and primarily serves to review project goals and results in order to recommend quality improvement activities.

Improving cultural competency via Healthy Perspectives has been incorporated into GHSU's long term strategic plan—Transformation 2020. Additionally, Healthy Perspectives encompasses the internationally celebrated Center for Patient- and Family-Centered Care and integrates newer guidelines from the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, ensuring that cultural competency will be deeply rooted in the GHSU mission to "lead Georgia and the world to better health."



**Georgia Health
Sciences University**

Pam Witter, M.Ed.
QEP Director
pwitter@georgiahealth.edu