



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

COLLEGE OF NURSING
AND HEALTH INNOVATION

Interprofessional Education

Healthcare is a Team Sport

Athletic Trainers are often the first to see an injury, and often will follow a patient throughout the entire plan of care. This makes the Athletic Trainer an important part of a larger team: ATs can expect to interact with physicians, nurses, surgeons, physical therapists, nurse practitioners, emergency medical personnel and many other allied health professionals as the team delivers a course of treatment. Everyone on the healthcare team must purposefully cooperate when providing care, and this collaboration is at the core of interprofessional education.

What is Interprofessional Education?

Interprofessional education occurs when two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.¹ Interprofessional education gives students the opportunity to prepare for future collaborative practice with other healthcare professionals. Effective collaborative practice in healthcare improves patient safety and overall health outcomes.

Interprofessional Education Opportunities

The UTA MSAT program offers a variety of interprofessional education opportunities for students. The Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice³ serve as a guide to interprofessional education, which is infused throughout the curriculum. In addition to in-class opportunities to improve communication with other healthcare professionals, every long semester MSAT student is given opportunities to interact with students from other healthcare professions, including nursing, social work, nurse practitioner, physical therapy, physician assistant, medicine, and more.



Figure 1 MSAT Student Katie Wade collaborates with students from medicine, physician assistant, nursing, and physical therapy programs to discuss the roles of everyone on the healthcare team.



Figure 2 MSAT Students discuss concussion management with family nurse practitioner students.

References

1. World Health Organization (WHO). Framework for action on interprofessional education and collaborative practice. [WHO website](#). Published 2010. Accessed May 2, 2018.
2. Interprofessional Education Collaborative. Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice: 2016 Update. Washington, DC: IPEC; 2016.