Incorporating Pain Competencies and IASP Curriculum Outlines into Professional Education

The IASP Curricula Outlines provide recommended curricula for pharmacy, psychology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing, medicine, dentistry, social work, and interprofessional education. The outlines are helpful for establishing teaching courses on acute, chronic, and cancer pain at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The curricula outlines were all updated in 2017 for the Global Year on Excellence in Pain Education.

The European Pain Federation Core Curriculum for the European Diploma in Pain Medicine (2016) articulates the learning outcomes for trainees to achieve through self-directed learning, clinical experience in the workplace, and other educational experiences delivered during their training and helped by the EFIC® Pain Schools and educational initiatives.

The North American Core Pain Competencies by Fishman et al (2013) address the fundamental concepts and complexity of pain; how pain is observed and assessed; collaborative approaches to treatment options; and application of competencies across the life span in the context of various settings, populations, and care-team models. A set of values and guiding principles are embedded within each domain. These competencies can serve as a foundation for developing, defining, and revising curricula and as a resource for the creation of learning activities across health professions designed to advance care that effectively responds to pain.

How to integrate

- Map the content outlines and competencies with existing curricula to help identify gaps or areas for improvement.
- Encourage curriculum developers across the health sciences to evaluate their current educational content and adopt and test the content outlines and competencies.
- Incorporate into learning opportunities and activities throughout the formative stages of healthcare education and training for students and for future professional development.
- Urge local and national licensure, accreditation, certification, education, and policy governing bodies to consider incorporating pain competencies when establishing standards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching Methods</th>
<th>Related Pain Education Example Reference</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Case-Based Learning</strong></td>
<td>Schwartz LR, Fernandez R, Kouyoumijan SR, Jones KA, Compton S. A randomized comparison trial of case-based learning versus human patient simulation in medical student education. Acad Emerg Med 2007;14(2):130-7</td>
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IAFP brings together scientists, clinicians, health-care providers, and policymakers to stimulate and support the study of pain and translate that knowledge into improved pain relief worldwide.
<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Team-Based Learning (&quot;flipped classroom&quot;)</strong></td>
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<td>Teacher-directed method for incorporating small-group active participation in large-group educational setting. Learners must actively participate in and out of class (preparation and discussion). Shift away from facts to application.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interprofessional Learning Activities</strong></td>
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<td>Combinations of aforementioned learning activities can be incorporated into interprofessional group problem solving and learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Experiences</strong></td>
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<td>Observation of and practice in inpatient and/or outpatient health-care settings.</td>
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<td><strong>Other:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Literature Review</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical review of evidence-based literature to inform best practices in pain management.</td>
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**Video Education**
Video-based training modules for learning clinical information and/or skills.

**Online Modules**
Learning modules including mixed learning methods (videos, case-based material, slide presentations, evidence-based discussions, etc.)

**Participating in Pain Group Therapy:**
Participating in already-established therapeutic groups to hear patients’ and staff experiences and then discuss specific topics with staff.

**Video Education**

**Online Training**


**RESOURCES**

**IASP Curricula Outlines**

**European Federation of International Chapters (EFIC) Curriculum for Pain Medicine**

**U.S. National Institute of Health (NIH) Centers of Excellence in Pain Education Case-Based Modules**
REFERENCES

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As part of the Global Year for Excellence in Pain Education, IASP offers a series of nine Fact Sheets that cover specific topics related to pain education. These documents have been translated into multiple languages and are available for free download. Visit [www.iasp-pain.org/globalyear](http://www.iasp-pain.org/globalyear) for more information.