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Funded by the European Union

Project-based learning

Project-based learning can enhance the quality of internships for students by engaging them in hands-on, practical projects that address real-world healthcare challenges. This approach fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaborative skills. Project-based learning encourages students to apply their theoretical knowledge in practical scenarios, leading to a deeper understanding of the subject matter and improving clinical skills. Project-based learning encourages collaboration across different healthcare disciplines, preparing students for the teamwork required in modern healthcare settings.

How:

Objective; to implement project-based learning strategies that engage medical and nursing students in real-world healthcare challenges, fostering critical thinking, teamwork, and practical skills.

1. Define project objectives; establish clear, achievable objectives that align with the curriculum and target specific competencies.
2. Select real-world projects; choose projects that address real-world healthcare problems or needs.
3. Form student teams; organize students into diverse teams.
4. Project planning; guide students in planning their projects, including setting milestones, assigning roles, and identifying necessary resources and information.
5. Mentorship and support; provide ongoing mentorship and support to student teams. Offer guidance, but encourage autonomy and problem solving.
6. Resources and tools; ensure students have access to relevant resources, tools, and databases to research and develop their projects.
7. Assessment and feedback; establish criteria for assessing projects based on originality, relevance, evidence-based content, and impact.
8. Presentation and reflection; have students present their projects to their peers, faculty, and possibly healthcare professionals.

Special requirements:

Provide access to digital tools, online databases, and virtual collaboration platforms to support project research and development.

Be prepared to adapt project goals or processes based on student feedback, unforeseen challenges, or evolving learning needs.

Time required:

Allocate 1-2 weeks for defining project objectives, forming teams, and project planning.

Depending on the project, development can take anywhere from a few weeks to an entire semester.

Set aside time at the end of the project for presentations, feedback sessions, and reflective discussions.

Scarbrough, H., Bresnen, M., Edelman, L. F., Laurent, S., Newell, S., & Swan, J. (2004). The Processes of Project-based Learning: An Exploratory Study. *Management Learning*, *35*(4), 491-506. https://doi-org.proxy1-bib.sdu.dk/10.1177/1350507604048275