

Background

Communication errors have long been known to be one of the most important causes of medical errors. The Loma Linda University Interprofessional Lab (IPL) may be one way to improve communication and teamwork. To ensure students are prepared for a collaborative work environment, we developed the IPL to teach effective communication, understanding of professional roles, application of ethical healthcare principles and patient-centered problem solving techniques utilizing immersive simulations and case study discussions. Through student self-reported measures of the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) competencies, we aim to evaluate the effectiveness of the IPL among 16 healthcare professions.



Methods

Tools such as TeamSTEPPS are becoming standard within health professional education. Performance Assessment for Interprofessional Communication and Teamwork (PACT) is a tool based on the TeamSTEPPS framework that has shown evidence of being effective in assessing communication and teamwork of student professionals. We utilized a modified PACT self-assessment before and after the experience. Pre and post survey questions were divided into categories consistent with the four IPEC competencies and compared with paired sample t-tests for the overall group and by individual professions. A within-groups ANOVA was performed controlling for school quarter.



Impact of an interprofessional experience on student self-evaluation of the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) competencies for 16 healthcare professions

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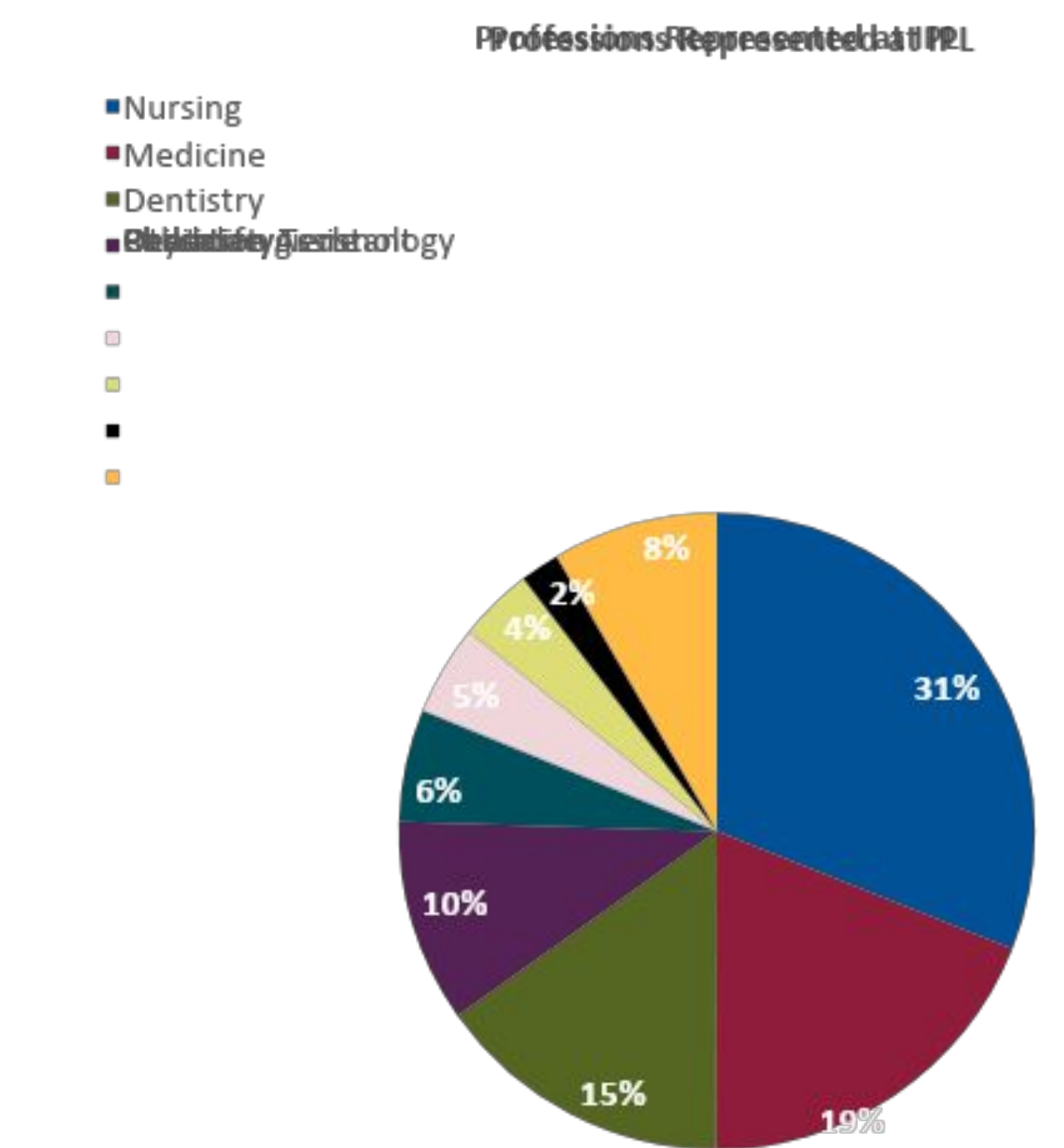
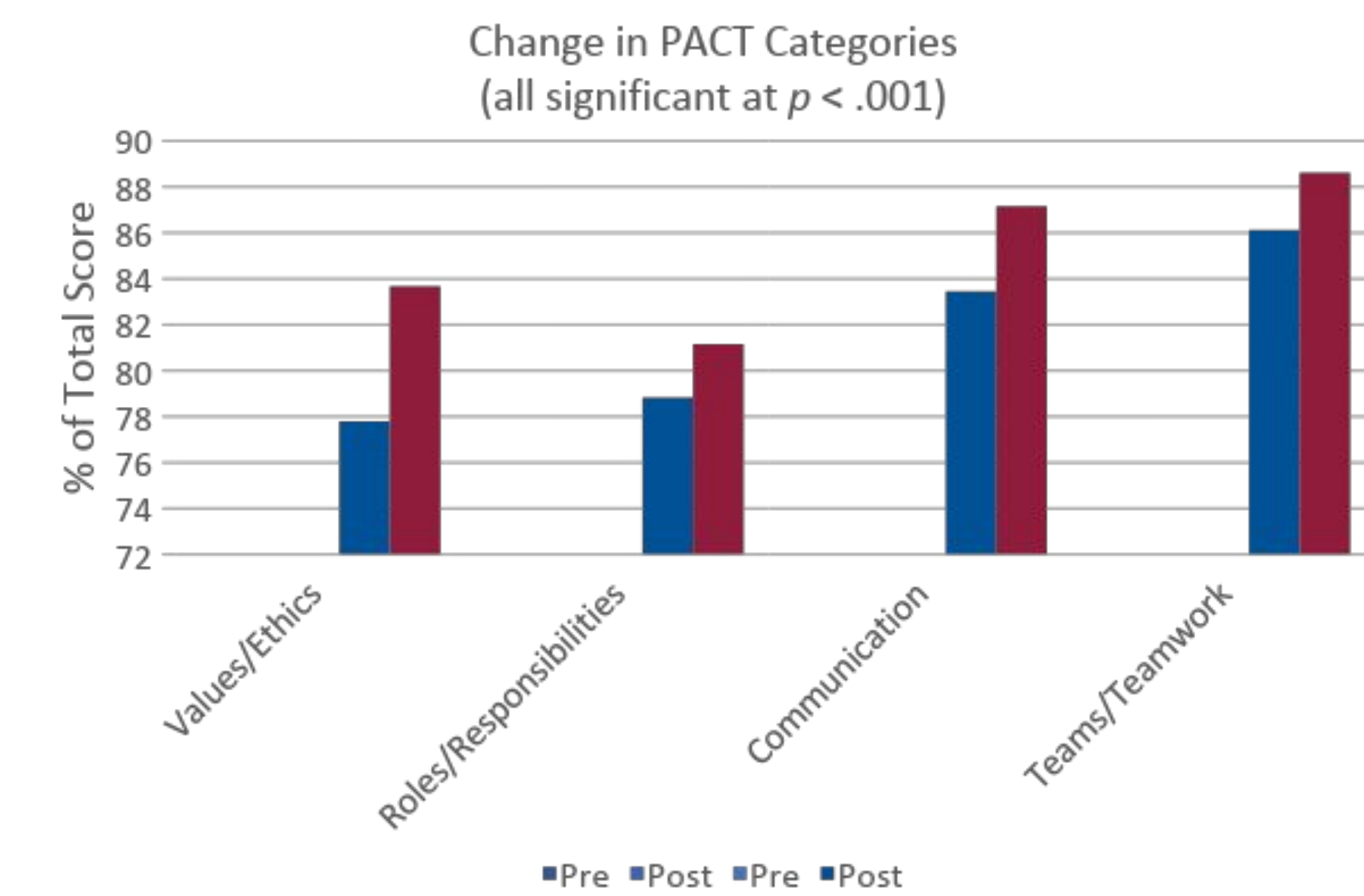
Student Feedback

“I was thrilled about Interprofessional Training because it gave me the knowledge about how important is the position of each member; and how we work together as a team in order to perform the highest quality patient care.”
– Radiation Technology Student

“It’s extremely important to incorporate interprofessional training to foster team work and a better understanding of other profession’s responsibilities and pressures.” – Pharmacy Student

“The most important learning experience I took away from the training was how to work effectively in a team with other healthcare professionals to optimize patient care and safety.” – Pharmacy Student

Results



A total of 602 students participated in IPL from October 2018 to May 2019. All students improved on measures of values/ethics, roles/responsibilities, communication and teams/teamwork ($p < 0.001$ for all categories). No statistically significant difference was seen between those with and without previous exposure to other professions ($p > 0.05$) nor were differences seen across quarters ($p > 0.05$). Varied improvements were seen across professions.

Conclusions

This IPL successfully enhanced student competence relating to Interprofessional Education (IPE). IPL appears to benefit all students equally regardless of prior interprofessional experience. With these results, future IPE activities may be tailored to improve each professions’ area for needed growth.

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