

An Interprofessional Experience of Bioethics for HPE Graduate Students: The Ethics Health Care Team Challenge

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Goal/Objective

- To expose medical, nursing, occupational therapy, physician assistant and health administration students to collaborative, case-based decision making featuring ethical dilemmas associated with patient care

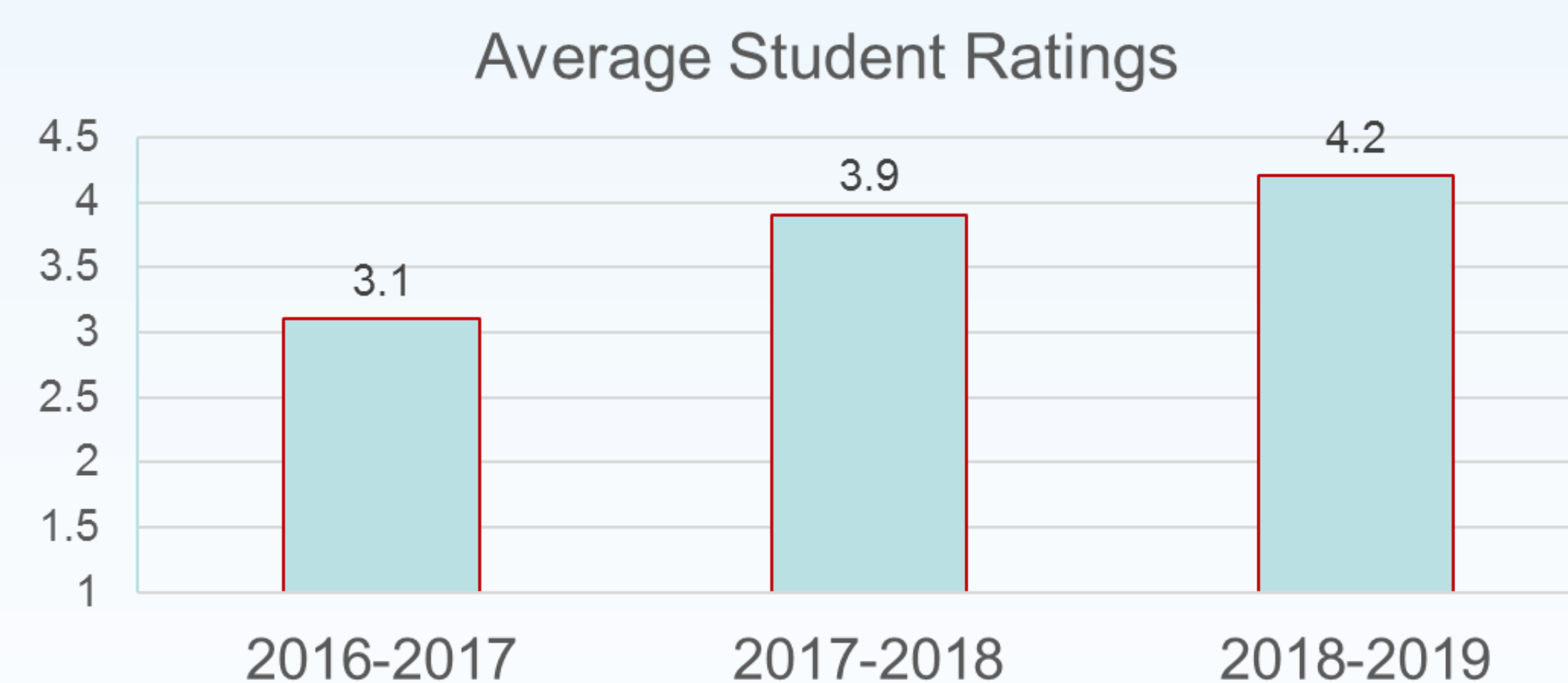
Background

- We developed an interprofessional, intercollegiate healthcare ethics course which involved 135 students from 5 health care disciplines
- Content is delivered in 6-10 modules focused on core principles of bioethics and includes readings, cases, videos, didactic presentations and small group discussions
- The health care team challenge is an innovative teaching method used in health professions education settings. The ability to resolve complex ethical dilemmas associated with patient care is an important part of health professions education. Exposing students to this training in an interprofessional context and allowing them to see a hospital ethics consultation panel at work is an innovative curricular approach

Design

- The final session of the course involved the assembly of all 135 students for the Team Challenge event
- After initial presentation of a clinical case, interprofessional student teams were formed and defended an assigned ethical position related to the case featuring ethical dilemmas
- The ethics consultation panel from our teaching hospital subsequently listened to student presentations and led further discussion of the case, ensuring that all ethical and legal issues were explored
- At the conclusion of the panel discussion, the actual events and ultimate resolution of the case were presented

Outcomes



Changes were made each year to address student concerns about group activities and to better accommodate/involve online students

Strengths/Limitations

- Use of a healthcare topic to teach principles of IPE and enhance cross disciplinary knowledge in bioethics
- Learning format combines several teaching methods yet is easy to reproduce
- Technology availability and length of the event (3 hours) are limitations

Feasibility/Generalizability

- The health care team challenge format is adaptable and generalizable to a variety of instructional settings
- Is also relatively low cost in terms of resources needed
- Clinical case selected must feature ethical complexity

References

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