

Transversal competencies: The global approach at la Faculté de médecine de l'Université Laval

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Keywords:	transversal competencies, faculty-wide approach, continuity

To integrate competency-based teaching in all residency programs is a huge task. La Faculté de médecine de l'Université Laval has chosen a global approach that provides continuity in the teaching and assessment of transversal competencies (TC) at the pregraduate, postgraduate and teaching professional levels.

Under the authority of the associate dean of clinical affairs, a TC director leads a steering committee that sets general directions for the teaching and assessment of TC and establishes the culture at the university for TC teaching. A coordinating committee, consisting of delegates from every residency program, shares information and the innovations that take place in the school. Pregraduate and faculty development representatives as well as competency experts for different TC also contribute to these committees. Different resources are available to assist the programs in their tasks, including a website used as a tool allowing the programs to communicate interesting initiatives and share activities, documents, presentations and hyperlinks.

At the pregraduate level, 4 TC beside the Medical Expert Role are programmed: Communicator, Collaborator, self-learning and Professional. A strong link is fostered with residency programs as a special 4-week rotation on TC is offered to first-year residents, allowing CanMEDS model acquisition as well as giving residents solid foundations to pursue TC apprenticeship during their residency. Faculty teaching and continuous medical education on TC consolidate this global approach with clinical teachers.

Our faculty-wide strategy has encouraged strong involvement from programs and has enabled the sharing of tools and resources as well as the birth of interesting program initiatives and collaborations.