

Health Sciences Education Strategy Committee (HSESC) Terms of Reference

Purpose

As a committee of the Joint Governance Council of the Academic Health Sciences (JGCAHS), the Health Sciences Education Strategy Committee (HSESC) provides overview and strategic guidance for initiatives and educational programs that span multiple departments, schools, or programs within the health science disciplines at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). This includes interprofessional education (IPE) and other areas of common interest that require co-ordination and collaboration across the university.

The HSESC mandate includes the identification, prioritization, implementation, co-ordination, and evaluation of interprofessional education initiatives and shared programming common to at least two participating health science colleges, schools, or programs. In addition, the HSESC can address broader areas of common interest, including but not limited to the development of co-ordinated recruitment strategies and planning for shared space needs. This may also include operational matters, such as occupational health and safety requirements unique to the health science disciplines. The HSESC also provides a forum to identify and address emerging issues specific to the health sciences that span more than one college, school, or program, supporting alignment and collaboration.

Through its work with its subcommittees and working groups, and through liaison with other relevant health science groups, the HSESC provides advice to the JGCAHS on how these initiatives or issues are to be implemented within participating colleges, schools, and programs. The HSESC takes direction from the JGCAHS regarding these activities.

The HSESC will be knowledgeable about emerging issues pertaining to existing and future IPE shared programming (through any subcommittees formed, and through direct engagement with their own academic units) that will broaden student access to health science programs throughout the province.

Responsibilities

The HSESC will:

- Provide ongoing reports to the JGCAHS through the director of the Academic Health Sciences, who will communicate on behalf of the committee.
- Execute requests from the JGCAHS.
- Identify at least one or two short- and long-term strategic priorities for approval by the JGCAHS each year, and report progress regularly through the director of AHS.

- When engaged by the JGCAHS, liaise with other committees created by the JGCAHS to share information across pillars, including but not limited to Indigenization, operations, and research.
- Advise the JGCAHS on strategies for integrating shared academic teaching and learning initiatives into operational processes and human resource planning across health science colleges, schools, and programs.
- Serve as a forum to identify issues affecting multiple health science programs, collaborate with stakeholders to explore solutions, and, where appropriate, develop recommendations for the JGCAHS on policies, procedures, and the effective use of resources that support shared health science education initiatives, including but not limited to interprofessional education. These efforts are intended to meet the needs of students, faculty and staff, and community.
- Monitor and discuss issues related to course enrolments in shared and service courses across health science programs.
- Share information on issues that could impact health science colleges, schools, and programs from internal entities (e.g., Clinical Learning Resource Centre [CLRC], Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience, Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning [GMCTL]), and external entities (e.g., licensing bodies, accreditation bodies, Saskatchewan Health Authority [SHA] Academic Health Sciences and learner placements, etc.)
- Create and oversee standing subcommittees, such as the Interprofessional Education Curriculum Committee (IPECC), and term-limited ad hoc working groups as needed to address common health science education issues and initiatives (e.g., admissions, student support, immunizations, criminal record checks, WCB agreements, housing, mode of delivery, etc.).
- Provide recommendations to the JGCAHS on space matters relevant to health science programming.
- Act as a conduit between the JGCAHS and the various HSESC subcommittees by communicating guidance from the JGCAHS and providing recommendations on interprofessional education, shared programming, and other relevant areas for consideration by the council.

Membership

Members

- Chair (appointed by JGCAHS for a two-year term)
- Vice-chair (appointed by JGCAHS for a two-year term)
- Vice-, associate, or assistant deans (academic), or equivalent
 - College of Dentistry
 - College of Kinesiology
 - College of Medicine
 - College of Nursing
 - College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
 - Western College of Veterinary Medicine
 - School of Public Health

- Clinical psychology, College of Arts and Science
- Health Sciences Students' Association (HSSA) representative
- Provost's Office representative (deputy provost, vice-provost, students and learning, or designate)

Resource roles

In addition to this core membership, resource personnel may be periodically invited to attend and provide updates in their respective areas of responsibility. Examples include:

- Provost's Office representatives
- Dean of University Library (or designate, preferably from the Health Sciences Library)
- College of Medicine, MD Program
- College of Medicine, MPAS Program
- College of Medicine, School of Rehabilitation Science
- College of Dentistry, DA Program
- College of Dentistry, DH Program
- College of Dentistry, DT program
- Director of Academic Health Sciences
- Academic Health Sciences administrative support
- Associate director of Clinical Learning Resource Centre (CLRC)
- Associate director of operations, Academic Health Sciences
- Chairs from other JGCAHS committees
- Saskatchewan Health Authority representative(s) — Academic Health Sciences and learner placements

Governance

- The HSESC will be chaired by an appointee of the JGCAHS.
- The HSESC will normally make its recommendations to the JGCAHS by consensus.
- Administrative support will be provided by the director of AHS.

Meetings

- Meet twice a term, or as needed.
- The agenda for each meeting will normally be prepared by the director of AHS, reviewed by the chair and vice-chair, and distributed to members at least one week in advance.
- Minutes of each meeting will be recorded and circulated with the agenda for approval at the subsequent meeting.

Reporting

- The HSESC is accountable to the JGCAHS via the director of AHS.

- An annual report summarizing progress toward strategic priorities, including committee activities, decisions, and outcomes, will be prepared by the director of AHS, approved by the HSESC, and submitted to the JGCAHS each spring.
- Meeting notes will be kept on file by the director of AHS in a secure folder accessible to members.
- Any information deemed to be confidential in nature (e.g., individual health or personal issues) will be handled and stored in a secure manner.
- Confidential information recorded during meetings will be stored in a secure folder, with the location of that information referenced in the minutes.

Review and amendment of the Terms of Reference

- The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the HSESC.
- Amendments to the Terms of Reference may be proposed by any member and will be reviewed by the committee for recommendation to the JGCAHS.
- The JGCAHS approves the Terms of Reference.

Date approved by JGCAHS: January 8, 2026