

Guiding Principles for Patient/Public Engagement in Health Professional Education

CORE CONCEPTS



ACCOUNTABILITY

Includes transparency, feedback, and shared outcomes.

Engagement should be longitudinal and consistent, with clear goals, and feedback to show that the input is valued and has made a difference.



INCLUSION

People with diverse perspectives are sought and invited to participate. Engagement processes are easily accessible.

Diverse needs, perspectives and geographical locations are needed to reflect the populations served, especially those who experience barriers to accessing healthcare.



RECIPROCITY

Relationships are mutually beneficial and based on trust and mutual respect.

Trust and mutual respect are foundational in all relationships in healthcare and should be reflected within health professional education.



PARTNERSHIP / SHARED DECISION-MAKING

University and community partners have equal voices and shared responsibility.

Equal engagement is important to move beyond consultation and create authentic relationships that lead to meaningful change.

ACTIONS



CO-PRODUCTION

University and community partners work together to co-develop and co-design engagement processes and activities.

Co-creation of the delivery and design of education brings mutual benefits and enriches the program for students.



TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION

Communication is open and honest, with clear expectations on both sides.

Two-way communication is important for building relationships and helps to foster reciprocity and partnership.



SUPPORT

Community partners receive the support and information they need to participate fully.

Supports and accommodations are needed in order to increase diversity and include those who have barriers to participation.



DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT

There are diverse opportunities for the community to engage in health professional education (from classroom to committee).

Offering options for the level of engagement recognizes the different capacities to engage and permits a broader range of input.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

These eight guiding principles were identified from a review of published practical guides for patient and community engagement. They were reviewed and validated for application to health professional education through patient and public consultations conducted as part of 'Bringing Patients and Society Back into the Social Accountability of a Medical School', a research project funded by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 2022. To learn more about the project and details behind the guiding principles, visit the Meeting of Experts website: <https://meetingofexperts.org/programs-activities/social-accountability>.