

Virtual Curriculum Increases Medical Student Participation in LGBTQ+ Health Electives



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Introduction

- Specialists from all fields of medicine will encounter LGBTQ+ patients and should be able to provide competent, compassionate care.
- Few medical schools address the full spectrum of LGBTQ+ healthcare needs.¹
- Consequently, medical students report low confidence in their ability to provide competent clinical care to LGBTQ+ patients.²
- Although LGBTQ+ health clinical electives were in place at our institution, space was limited and COVID-19 disrupted in-person activities.
- The COVID-19 pandemic forced medical schools across the nation to transition to virtual platforms.³
- Virtual clinical curricula have proven effective.⁴



Objectives

- 1. To develop and implement a virtual LGBTQ+ healthcare curriculum for third- and fourth-year medical students.
- 2. To increase third- and fourth-year medical student participation in LGBTQ+ healthcare electives.

References

- 1, Obedin-Maliver J, Goldsmith ES, Stewart L, White W, Tran E, Brenman S, Wells M, Fetterman DM, Garcia G, Lunn MR. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender-related content in undergraduate medical education. JAMA. 2011 Sep 7;306(9):971-7.
- 2. Nowaskie DZ, Patel AU. How much is needed? Patient exposure and curricular education on medical students' LGBT cultural competency. BMC Med Educ. 2020 Dec 4;20(1):490.
- 3. Rose S. Medical Student Education in the Time of COVID-19. JAMA. 2020 Jun 2;323(21):2131-2132.
- 4. Shin TH, Klingler M, Han A, Mocsiran JL, Vilchez V, Naples R, French J, Lipman JM, Rosenblatt S. Efficacy of Virtual Case-Based General Surgery Clerkship Curriculum During COVID-19 Distancing. Med Sci Educ. 2020 Nov 10:1-8.

Course Outline Providing Care for LGBTQ+ Patients Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Health Care HIV in the LGBTQ+ Community LGBTQ+ Reproductive Health Gender Affirmation Surgery LGBTQ+ Youth LGBTQ+ Aging 2 weeks

Student Participation

Students able to enroll in inperson elective

Students enrolled in virtual elective

98

6% Anesthesiology
7% EM
13% Internal Medicine
10% OB/GYN
6% Pediatrics
4% Psychiatry
27% Surgery
26% Other

Student Feedback

"As someone going into **general surgery**, the most interesting modules were those on **gender-affirmation surgery**, which was actually a term that I was not familiar with prior to watching the modules."





"I really enjoyed learning about the aspects of hormone therapy for transgender patients on bone health. As a medical student applying into orthopedic surgery, I viewed this information in particular as very relevant to my field of interest."

"How to approach **family planning** in patients of the LGBTQ+ community. I want to go into **OB/GYN** and this was especially interesting to me."





"The most memorable information I learned was regarding the high rates of depression, substance abuse, suicide and abuse in the transgender community."

"I'm going into **psychiatry**, and I'm sure that I'll have discussions with patients about their **gender identity**. This course provided a good framework for how to approach those discussions."

