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Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions  
Georgia State University  
Graduate Program in Health Professions

### Thesis Announcement

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| From: | Division Head  |
| Cc:   | Graduate/Doctoral Program Coordinator<br>Office of Academic Assistance Advisor |

**RE:** Defense Date

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Professions – Nutrition Thesis<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Professions – Respiratory Therapy - Thesis |
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| Student Name:<br>Bandar Faqih | Date: (i.e. January 23, 2012)<br>March 10, 2017 | Time: (AM/PM)<br>1:15pm               |
| Location:<br>Urban Life       | Room#:<br>1240                                  | Thesis Chairperson:<br>Dr. Gardenhire |

Thesis Title:  
Healthcare Professional Students' Perceptions Toward Interprofessional Education

Abstract:  
See Attached.

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Signature Division Head- Nutrition: | Signature Division Head:- Respiratory Therapy:<br> |
| Committee Member                    | Committee Member<br>                               |
| Committee Member                    | Committee Member<br>                               |
| Committee Member                    | Committee Member<br>                               |

This form should be sent to web coordinator after approval from Division Head Nutrition/Respiratory Therapy.  
Created 1/31/2012, approved

## ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** The interaction among various health disciplines in a health care team using interprofessional education (IPE) approach has received recognition as one of the most effective methods of improving the delivery of healthcare services. The perception and attitude of students toward IPE is considered one of the barriers and challenges to implement interprofessional education. **PURPOSE:** The aim of this study is to evaluate students' perceptions toward interprofessional education. **METHOD:** Data were collected through a descriptive survey using the Readiness for Interprofessional Learning Scale (RIPLS). The survey consisted of 19 items, 5-point Likert scale and grouped into four sub-scales; teamwork and collaboration, negative professional identity, positive professional identity, and roles and responsibilities. The survey was administered to a convenience sample of undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled in nursing, respiratory therapy, nutrition, physical therapy, and occupational therapy programs at an urban university. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. **RESULTS:** The number of participants was two hundred and fifty ( $n = 250$ ) students from different five programs. Physical therapy students accounted for 29.2%; followed by nursing students 28.8%; respiratory therapy students 26.4%; nutrition students 8.4%; and occupational therapy students 7.2%. Female participants accounted for 71.6% of all participants while male participants accounted for 28.4%. Over half of the participants are graduate degree students while 44.4% are undergraduate degree students. Almost one third of participants reported previous IPE experience and two third of participants reported no previous IPE experience. The study findings revealed that participants have good perception and more agreement toward IPE ( $M = 77.13, \pm 7.87$  out of 95 points). The study showed that there is negative but insignificant correlation between age and RIPLS total scores, negative professional identity, positive professional identity, and roles & responsibilities. There is only a significant negative correlation ( $r_s = -0.175; P = 0.006$ ) between students' age and the teamwork & collaboration subscale. Moreover, the study findings revealed that gender and previous IPE experience have no significant effect on students' perception toward IPE. **CONCLUSION:** Results indicate that healthcare professional students value interprofessional education have good perception toward it. Further studies with higher number of participants from various disciplines and level of education are recommended.