

¿Habla Español? A Longitudinal Program Equipping Students to Care for Spanish-speaking Patients



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PROBLEM / NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Forty-one percent of Hispanics in the United States have limited English proficiency. This population is predicted to increase from 18% to 29% by 2060.¹
- Language discordance results in poor patient-clinician communication, less access to care, lower visit comprehension, and disparities in safety, quality of care, and health equity.^{2,3}

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To equip medical students to become culturally respectful Spanish-speaking physicians who will care for the increasing number of Hispanic patients in Winston-Salem and throughout the U.S.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

- MAESTRO** (Medical Applied Education in Spanish through Training, Resources, and Overlearning) is a certificate program offered to first-year medical students with intermediate/advanced Spanish proficiency.
- Launched in 2019: 9 students were accepted into the inaugural 4-year longitudinal program designed to run concurrently with the traditional “Wake Ready” MD curriculum.
- MAESTRO is an innovative collaboration between Wake Forest School of Medicine faculty, Wake Forest University Spanish faculty, and a Student Design Team to deliver an effective, learner-oriented curriculum.

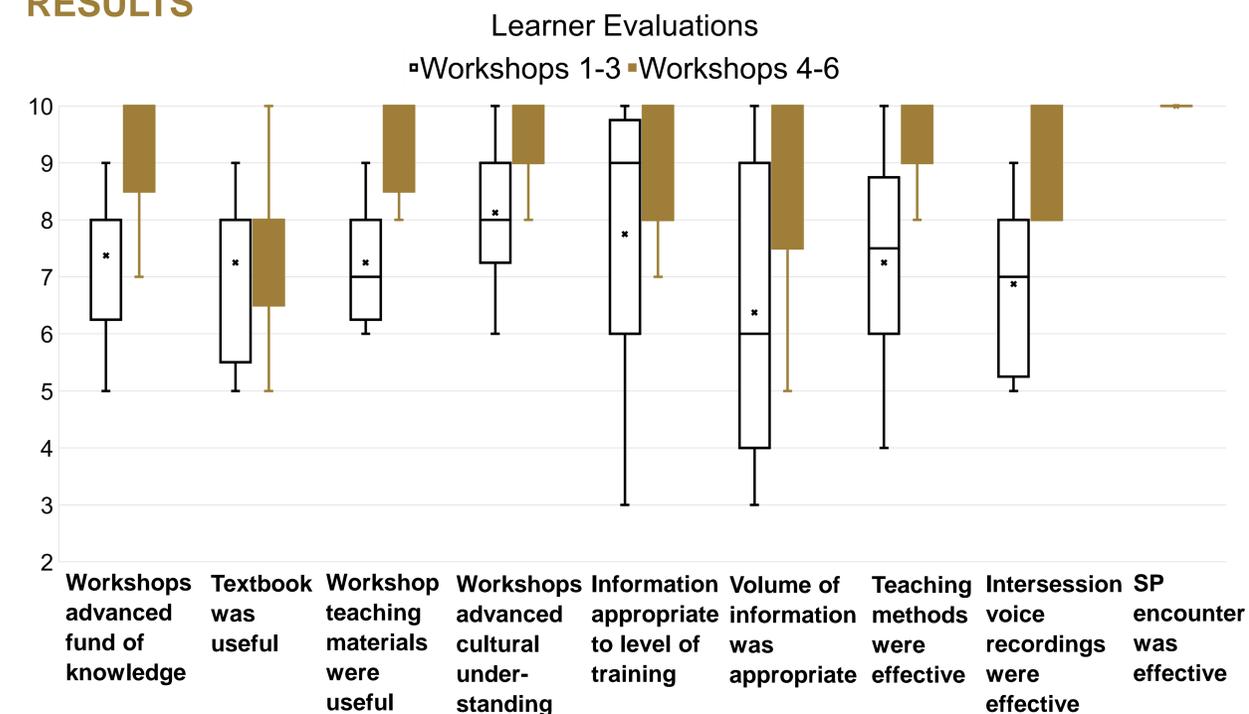
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

| Year | Skills | Methodology |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Year 1: Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical communication skills Medical vocabulary Cultural awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine workshop sessions with instructor(s) Community service Community engagement Standardized patient (SP) encounters Regional or global health summer project (optional) |
| Year 2: Self-study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill mastery Preparation for the CCLA (Clinician Cultural and Linguistic Assessment) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology-based learning Individual faculty-guided learning SP practice CCLA certification |
| Year 3: Application | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct contact with Spanish-speaking patients Community engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical rotations Continued community engagement |
| Year 4: Individual-ization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of all skills acquired during the program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued community engagement Global health or immersion experiences |

EVALUATION METHODS

- Learner evaluations were conducted during Year 1 at 3 months and at 6 months to measure workshop effectiveness and impact on students’ knowledge and cultural understanding.
- Items were measured on a 10-point Likert scale (1-strongly disagree, 10-strongly agree).

RESULTS



- Median responses increased and variability decreased across all survey questions between 3 and 6 months.

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Physician-patient language concordance is an important factor in providing safe and effective healthcare.²
- Students report positive benefits, which improved over time, of the MAESTRO Program on medical Spanish knowledge and cultural understanding.
- Future research plans include pre-/post- self-assessment surveys and standardized fluency assessments to evaluate participants’ progress.

REFERENCES

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