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Evaluation of a Student-Centered Digital Education Project in Health Science Education

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Background & Purpose
Student-centered learning is essential and evidence shows higher levels of achievement when students are engaged with educational activities that include critical thinking and effective communication in addition to creativity. The millennial generation of students are comfortable with technology and this project introduces new platforms for presenting healthcare information. The aim of this course assessment was to evaluate a student-centered digital education project during a course about physical therapy (PT) management of chronic diseases.

Results
Data analyzed from three cohorts of DPT students from 2014-2016 (n=137) show most choose to work in groups (96%) and most selected the format of an infographic. Student perceptions show this digital education project was well-received. Faculty noted an excitement by students about their completed projects and eagerness to share with others. Analysis included existing data without identifiers (not human subject research) so no IRB review or approval was necessary.

Which digital project format did students select?

- Infographic: 45.3% (n=114)
- Screencast: 7% (n=4)
- Pecha Kucha (digital video): 4.6% (n=6)

What were the student perceptions of the digital education project?

Grading Criteria

- **Thoroughness**: Provides well thought-out, complete and detailed information on a topic that can be covered in the format selected
- **Coherence/Logical**: Ideas and topics are clear and presented coherently to formulate logical thoughts
- **Critical Thinking**: Clear evidence of critical thinking. Critically analyzes information, considers multiple points of view beyond class notes. Depth of content appropriate for graduate school level work and advanced reader with background in healthcare
- **Presentation of Material**: Visually pleasing presentation of topic, organized, appropriate use of citations (AMA or APA format), including copyrighted material
- **Spelling/Grammar**: Error free
- **Meets Project Deadlines**: Topic and Project Format Selection Form, Digital Project, Self-Assessment, Peer-Assessment (for groups)

Examples of Student Digital Education Projects
All projects were shared with the classmates at the end of the semester.

Conclusions
These results support the use of a student-centered educational project allowing students to make connections between course material related to physical therapy and chronic diseases with an individualized project plan to present information digitally.

References
Students Choices for Project

**Topic** (project due date)

**Format** (PechaKucha, Screencast, Infographic)

**Group or Individual**