

## **Radiation Therapy Program and the Eagle Advantage Goals- March 2022**

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Weege & Amanda Carpenter

### **Adaptability**

- Students receive instruction with applied activities on Growth Mindset and Resiliency in RT 325 & RT 370.
- Students reflect weekly on clinical performance during the clinical internship courses (RT 471-474).
- Students reflect on exam performances after exams in RT 310 and 390 to identify areas for improvement in study and learning skills for next exams.
- Students engage in self-evaluation as well as instructor led- affective and/or professional development evaluations in each semester in the program.

### **Collaboration and Leadership**

- Students complete group work and projects in all courses. As part of the group work, they often assess their own performance and evaluate others' performance.
- Students work on a treatment team for 13 months as a student radiation therapist and collaborate on patient care with supervising radiation therapists, physicians, medical physicists, medical dosimetrist, and nurses.
- Students learn about leadership and being a leader in RT 400 as they prepare for internship.
- Students are enrolled in a course during their clinical year where the practice Quality Improvement of a process by completing a group quality improvement project in their assigned department.
- Teamwork is assessed during all clinical internship courses on the affective and professional development evaluations.
- Students also run the Radiation Therapy Club on campus which includes an executive team of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian.

### **Communication**

- Students develop their writing and oral communication skills in all courses in the program through Writing in the major and various large and small writing assignments and presentations.
- Students are assessed on their communication skills during all clinical internship courses on the affective and professional development evaluations.
- This is also one of our program goals.

### **Critical Thinking & Problem Solving**

- Through competency exams and authentic program assignments, students are challenged in critical thinking.
- This is also one of our program goals.

### **Digital Learning and Technology**

- Students engage with digital literacy through the various research papers and projects through the program. Additionally, in their first semester of the program, they have a digital literacy lecture with one of the electronic resource librarians.

- As part of being a student therapist and during their clinical practicum courses, they also work with various computers and programs which work together to deliver radiation therapy to a patient and keep their healthcare records updated. Additionally, there are computers which do the treatment planning.

### **Engaging Diversity**

- During RT 350 (Patient Care Issues), students discuss the meaning of culture and diversity, potential differences in needs from caregivers in populations of different culture/ethnicity to feel comfortable with the quality of care, the need for understanding needs of those different from us in forming a trusting patient/provider relationship (gender, culture, etc.), generational differences in regard to patient needs and education, and potential needs of patients with lower socioeconomic status in regard to quality healthcare
- During RT 330 and 350 there is promotion of involvement with volunteer opportunities for students to go into the community and work with patients of different, cultures, generations, and genders.
- In RT 370, students are exposed to the access to healthcare disparities which exist amongst cultural groups, gender, and social economic status.
- When students are at their clinical internship and are student therapists, they can provide care to a wide variety of patients with differences in age, gender, sexual orientation, culture, race and religious/spiritual beliefs.

### **Integrity & Accountability**

- Through working on a treatment team as well as the various group assignments throughout the program, students gain a great deal of responsibility and ownership of their role on a team.
- During the clinical internship, their accountability and integrity is assessed through the professional development plan and the affective evaluations. This is assessed on campus as well through the professional development courses and group assessments as mentioned previously.

### **Self-Management**

- During their first semester in the program in RT 330, students complete a Career Advancement project where they explore and examine another career, they can pursue with a degree in radiation therapy. Eg. management, traveling therapist, medical dosimetry, sales, and applications, etc.
- Students are given the opportunity to complete externship experiences in their final summer in the program. They can go and practice radiation therapy at a site different then their assigned internship site.
- Students in the radiation therapy program are given extensive opportunities to engage with the radiation therapy profession and community. Such opportunities include becoming members of state and national professional organizations, the national radiologic sciences honor society, attending state and national conferences, if selected, the national student leadership development program and they can become involved in campus organization such as RT Club, Colleges Against Cancer, and other cancer related community events to raise awareness and funds for cancer research.
- Embedded in the curriculum is the priority of stress management and self-care. This is frequently assessed as well in the professional development plan.