

IMPLEMENTING AN OUTCOMES-BASED EDUCATION

Smith, S.R., Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA

Brown Medical School instituted a competency-based curriculum more than ten years ago. The speaker reviewed that experience, highlighting those areas where the new curriculum had been successful in achieving its goals and where it had not. The curriculum innovation was successful in broadening the scope of the curriculum; fostering teaching and learning in nontraditional areas such as ethics, lifelong learning, personal and professional development, and the social and community contexts of health care; incorporating performance-based assessments; energizing and mobilizing a number of key faculty; and serving as a model for other medical schools. The new curriculum was not successful in significantly altering the mode of teaching, which remained predominantly lecture-based and fact-oriented; achieving true buy-in by the faculty and students; or changing the culture where abilities and attitudes were valued as highly as knowledge. The speaker recommended that schools that want to implement an outcomes-based curriculum should revise the entire curriculum to align all the elements of teaching, learning, and assessment.