Living Classroom Readiness Checklist
Education Partner

Introduction

The Living Classroom is a model of learning and practice for healthcare education alongside residents, families and team members in long-term care (LTC). Students build confidence and gain hands-on experience to grow their skills. Residents, families and team members enjoy the extra support, and often become mentors themselves. Everyone benefits from this vibrant and collaborative environment. For more information about the Living Classroom, visit our website.

If your educational institution is interested in implementing your own Living Classroom, the following questions will help you reflect on various factors that can contribute to a successful implementation. The purpose of completing the Readiness Assessment is to support planning and decision-making.

How to use this document

Complete the checklist portion individually, and then use the discussion questions to guide a group reflection on strengths and challenges and to determine where more preparation may be needed. For each point, circle or mark whether you think it is a strength or challenge for your organization. If you do not know, circle or mark "unsure."

Living Classroom Fund

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If you have questions about this resource and the Living Classroom program, please contact livingclassroom@the-ria.ca.

Leadership Support and Engagement

Strength/Challenge/Unsure: Administration is convinced of the value of the Living Classroom in addressing student retention and increased work readiness.

Strength/Challenge/Unsure: Implementation of a Living Classroom is aligned with organizational, regional, and system goals.

Strength/Challenge/Unsure: Senior leadership is willing and able to lead the planning process.

Notes:

Human Resources to Support Teaching and Learning

Strength/Challenge/Unsure: You have qualified instructor(s) willing to change their approach to implement integrated learning.

Strength/Challenge/Unsure: Your education team is receptive to including LTCH staff, residents, and families into their curriculum as leaders and additional resources for learning

Strength/Challenge/Unsure: Your education team is ready to collaborate with a long-term care home.

Notes:

Quality Assurance and Change Management

Strength/Challenge/Unsure: Your PSW program has a robust quality assurance program that meets all provincial requirements and regulation standards.

Strength/Challenge/Unsure: Can your PSW Program implement all requirements of your Accreditation/Quality Assurance process?

Strength/Challenge/Unsure: Your school/PSW program has a history of successfully managing change and/or implementing new programs.

Notes:

Organizational Culture

Strength/Challenge/Unsure : Your organizational culture reflects a commitment to learning and innovation.

Strength/Challenge/Unsure : Your team understands the curriculum changes needed for a LC.

Strength/Challenge/Unsure : Your PSW program embodies a positive model of resident-centred care.

Notes:

Critical Mass and Diversity Services

Strength/Challenge/Unsure : Your community has a large enough population of potential students to sustain a Living Classroom and/or you would be able to implement a different delivery model to support the demand.

Notes:

Resources

Strength/Challenge/Unsure : The Living Classroom will not conflict with other high-priority initiatives or activities that are already happening within your program.

Strength/Challenge/Unsure : You have the resources to implement and administer the Living Classroom.

Notes:

Partnerships

Strength/Challenge/Unsure : Your PSW program has a positive relationship with an LTC home that supports PSW students with clinical placements.

Strength/Challenge/Unsure : Your PSW program has a strong commitment to working collaboratively with other organizations based on shared values.

Notes:

Discussion Questions

What do you anticipate will be your greatest implementation challenge?

What is your PSW program's greatest strength?

Where do your responses differ from those of your colleagues?

What readiness factors are important to address early in the planning process?

Where would more information or data be helpful?