

Special Issue Announcement
Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education

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Call for Papers

Focus of the Special Edition:

Using virtual platforms to provide learning and engagement opportunities during a pandemic

Purpose and Focus:

This special edition of *Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education* will focus on continuing education and training practices that have been developed in the face of challenges experienced by educators during the COVID-19 era as well as best practices in online continuing education and training that were in use prior to the pandemic. Specifically, this issue will examine how technology opportunities are being used to replace in-person educational activities. Effective methods for enhancing teaching, professional development, trainings, and continuing education for Social Work and other helping professions will be highlighted.

Since the surge of COVID-19 began in early 2020, individuals and communities throughout the world have experienced unprecedented psychological, emotional, and financial burdens due to the stressors created by the pandemic, including the necessity of working from home. This has prevented attendance at in-person trainings or continuing education seminars and workshops. In response, many educators and trainers have built new methods of teaching and learning to ensure that social workers and other professionals continue to make advances in their work, including learning how to deliver telehealth to support their clients and patients. As a result, educators and trainers have had to quickly learn new skills, shift norms, and develop inclusive solutions.

Delivery of mental and behavioral healthcare through virtual platforms has required practitioners to adopt new methods of interacting and providing care; sometimes these offer benefits over in-person care while they also offer drawbacks. Trainers have supported their adoption by sharing best practices in telehealth.

Considering this new reality, this special edition will highlight papers that report on recent developments in teaching and learning in continuing education and training, such as the following:

- How have professional development and training opportunities been successfully adapted to virtual formats, to ensure inclusive, effective delivery to meet learning objectives?
- What barriers and solutions exist in shifting professional educational opportunities to the virtual realm? How does virtual education still fall short of in-person education; how is it better than in-person teaching and learning?

- What hybrid models of teaching and learning are taking place? What are their strengths/limitations?
- What models of training for improving practitioners' use of telehealth exist?
- What are best practices in delivering large professional conferences online?
- How are typical in-person trainings best adapted to online formats? What format changes work best, e.g., types of virtual platforms, schedule adaptations, participants expected engagement practices?
- How best can virtual learning opportunities be made more accessible for participants? What engagement practices are most effective?

Process:

Two types of articles are acceptable for submission and more information can be found at: <http://www.profdevjournal.org/submissions.html>

1. Standard: academic research in nature.
2. Notes from the Field: rich description of programs or related processes.

Submission guidelines and additional information can be found at <http://www.profdevjournal.org/submissions.html>. If you have questions, contact Managing Editor, Noel Landuyt, nlanduyt@austin.utexas.edu

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