

Ultrasound education at Des Moines University

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Introduction:

The ultrasound curriculum at Des Moines University started in 2015 and was fully functional in 2017. This study questioned 178 DMU students about the first-year ultrasound curriculum.

Methods:

The survey questions consisted of mostly five-option Likert scale and one dichotomous question. In spring of 2023, we reviewed ultrasound training in specific areas of education such as anatomy, cardiovascular physiology, clinical medicine, and trauma evaluation.

Results:

The students had a positive ultrasound experience at DMU with 44.5% responding that their experience exceeded expectations or far exceeded expectations, and 33.55% responding with equaled expectations. When asked if ultrasound improved their understanding of basic anatomy, 53.2% of students agreed or strongly agreed. 96.8% of students would like to have more ultrasound workshops after imaging-based anatomy lectures. 67.94% of students agreed or strongly agreed that ultrasound improved their understanding of cardiovascular physiology. 73.7% of students agreed or strongly agreed that ultrasound improved their learning of clinical medicine. 96.10% of responses indicated that including ultrasound in systems courses would help them better understand the principles of clinical ultrasound. 73.6% of students agreed or strongly agreed that learning the FAST exam enhanced their knowledge of trauma evaluation.

Conclusion:

Ultrasound has shown to be beneficial in better understanding clinical medicine, trauma, anatomy, and physiology. Not only has it improved students' knowledge of these concepts, but students also identified that they would benefit from more incorporation of ultrasound into their education. This survey revealed that the ultrasound curriculum is well received by osteopathic medical students at DMU.