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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Perceptions of the CanMEDS Competencies of Faculty and Students in Different Curriculum Systems of a Medical School in China

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Introduction: The Ottawa-Shanghai Joint School of Medicine (OSJSM) has adopted the uOttawa's undergraduate medical education (UGME) program vertically integrated (VI) curriculum. However, limited information is available regarding whether the VI and non-VI curricula foster different perspectives on necessary competencies.

Methods: This study included 167 undergraduate medical students and 142 faculty members from different curricula at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine. Participants completed a questionnaire, rating the importance of competencies relating to the seven CanMEDS roles.

Results: The cognitive level regarding the competencies required to be a successful clinician was significantly higher among participants from VI versus non-VI curricula. All participants gave the highest ratings to the Medical Expert and Professional roles, and rated the Health Advocate role as least important. Competency ratings did not significantly differ between students from VI versus non-VI curricula. Ratings between VI and non-VI faculty showed only one significant difference, namely the competence of "Constantly update clinical knowledge and professional skills" was ranked significantly higher by faculty of non-VI curricula. In the top rated 10 competencies, the Communicator role was considered more important by participants from VI versus non-VI curricula.

Conclusion: The cognitive level regarding the competencies was related to the curriculum system. The Communicator role seemed to be paid more attention in VI curricula, however, other competencies was not demonstrated to be related to the curriculum system.

Keywords: competency, vertically integrated curriculum, medical education

Background

In China, the majority of medical schools follow a discipline-based curricular model, in which theory, clerkship, and internship are completed in three isolated phases, and competencies are largely neglected.¹ As medical education has developed, most Chinese medical schools have attempted to revise the undergraduate medical curricula, with the majority of schools attempting to apply an organ system-based curriculum model. In terms of integration methods, most colleges focus on horizontal integration, and the scope of integration is largely basic medicine.² Very few schools have adopted vertically integrated (VI) curricula. A fully vertically integrated undergraduate medical curriculum includes four elements:³ provision of early clinical experience, integration of biomedical sciences and clinical cases, progressive longitudinal increase of clinical responsibility, and extended clerkships in the final year of medical school.^{4,5}

In October 2014, the Ottawa-Shanghai Joint School of Medicine (OSJSM) was launched by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine (SJTUSM) and the University of Ottawa (uOttawa).⁶ OSJSM has adopted uOttawa's fully vertically integrated undergraduate medical education (UGME) program curriculum, which is based on the seven CanMEDS roles.⁷ Medical Expert, Professional, Communicator, Collaborator, Leader, Health Advocate, and Scholar. This program has been implemented for 5 years, but no study has examined the perspective of students and faculty regarding competencies.

Different undergraduate educational strategies may affect the degree of adaptation during medical students' transition from medical school to clinical practice and postgraduate training.⁸ Previous studies show that compared with graduates who have followed non-VI curricula, graduates of VI curricula seem to feel better prepared for work and postgraduate training.^{9,10} However, limited information is available regarding how different curriculum systems may influence the perspectives of competence among undergraduate medical students and faculty.

The CanMEDS is used as an educational framework at the undergraduate level throughout medical schools in Canada, and has also been adapted for international use.¹¹ It describes seven roles, each of which is represented by two to five key competencies that describe the related abilities, skills, and attitudes.¹² Within this framework, medical students are expected to develop competencies related to the following CanMEDS roles: Medical Expert, Professional, Communicator, Collaborator, Leader, Health Advocate, and Scholar.¹³ Research regarding the competencies of clinicians in China is still in its infancy,¹⁴ and it mainly focuses on the postgraduate stage. China has not yet developed a model or evaluation system for medical students' competence.¹⁵

The present study was performed at Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine (SJTUSM) in China. Participants were recruited from two different clinical medical schools of SJTUSM: the OSJSM and School of Pediatrics. As described above, the OSJSM uses a vertically integrated curriculum. On the other hand, the School of Pediatrics applies a discipline-based curricular model that is not vertically integrated. Undergraduate medical education spans five years, with the first and second years considered preclerkship, and the third, fourth and fifth years called clerkship.

In the present study, we aimed to investigate the perceptions of the competencies of faculty and students in different curriculum systems. The findings are intended to provide curricular planners with some insight regarding whether different curricula learning situations can affect the perspectives on competency of the students and faculties.

Methods

Participants

This study was conducted at Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine of 411 undergraduate medical students from years one to five, and 300 faculty members, were asked to complete an anonymous online questionnaire. Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study. The survey was available online for four weeks in December 2018. After two weeks, the students and faculty were sent a reminder via WeChat by staff members from OSJSM and the School of Pediatrics.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire comprised a list of the CanMEDS competency framework,¹⁶ including 7 dimensions of Medical Expert, Professional, Communicator, Collaborator, Leader, Health Advocate, and Scholar. The items of questionnaire were selected with 73 indicators from a previous study.¹⁷ A Delphi method was used to select the items, with 2 iterations in order to reach consensus. The questionnaire's reliability was assessed using Cronbach's alpha by SPSS 22.0. A pre-test survey was performed in participants ($N = 3$), 1 medical student and 2 faculty, who were asked to consider every item in the questionnaire. After finishing the questionnaire, participants were asked to consider every item in terms of (1) difficult to answer, (2) unclear, (3) use of difficult words, or (4) upsetting. Participants were also asked to provide comments or suggest alternative words or terms to researcher. Participants were also asked to provide comments or suggest alternative words or terms to researcher.

For each item, respondents were asked to rate the importance of competence using a 5-point Likert-type scale, where 1 = very unimportant and 5 = very important.¹⁸ Respondents were also asked to indicate their gender and class, and faculty were asked to indicate their teaching years.

Statistical Analysis

To optimize the response rate, we provided the same number of items for each of the seven roles.¹¹ As the role of Health Advocate includes four items, we chose the top four items for each of the other roles. The questionnaire's reliability was assessed using Cronbach's alpha. To calculate the overall ratings of importance within each role, we averaged the ratings of the four items. Scores were analyzed using SPSS 22.0. Mean and standard deviation (SD) was calculated for each individual item. Statistical differences between groups were analyzed using the Chi-square test and Kruskal Wallis test, with $P < 0.05$ considered statistically significant.

Results

A total of 167 medical students and 142 faculty members completed the survey. Table 1 shows the characteristics of the participating medical students and faculty. The participating undergraduate medical students included 87 from VI curricula and 80 from non-VI curricula. Among participating faculty, 70 were from VI curricula and 72 from non-VI curricula. Between the two different curriculum groups, we found no differences in students' gender ($H = 0.147, P = 0.883$) or grade ($H = 0.054, P = 0.816$), or in faculty's teaching year ($H = 0.361, P = 0.835$) (Table 1). Based on the scoring of importance for the items on the questionnaire, Cronbach's alpha was 0.992.

Compared to students, faculty had a higher cognitive level regarding competencies. This cognitive level significantly differed between faculty from VI curricula versus non-VI curricula ($\chi^2 = 4.060, P = 0.044$), and was significantly higher in students of the VI curriculum versus the non-VI curriculum ($\chi^2 = 25.424, P = 0.000$) (Figure 1). We also found differences in overall means between the competences related to the CanMEDS roles. The role of Medical Expert was rated significantly higher than any other CanMEDS role, and the role of Health Advocate was rated lowest (one-sample t -test, $P < 0.001$) (Figure 2).

In Table 2, the top 10 ranked competencies are marked in bold, and significant differences in rank positions are noted, indicating the higher rank.¹⁹ Nine of the top 10 competencies were the same between students of VI and non-VI curricula, with both groups indicating that the most importance competency was "Identify and be able to carry out on-site rescue for emergency, serious, and dangerous patients" within the role of Medical Expert. Regarding the seven roles of the CanMEDS, none of the top rated 10 competencies were under the roles of Collaborator, Scholar, or Health Advocate. In terms of ratings, compared to students from non-VI curricula, the students of VI curricula placed more importance on the role of Communicator. However, no significant differences were found in the ratings of competencies between participating students from VI versus non-VI curricula (Table 2).

Table 1 Characteristics of the Participating Medical Students and Faculty

	VI Curriculum		Non-VI Curriculum	
	n	%	n	%
Medical students, gender				
Male	39	44.8	30	37.5
Female	48	55.2	50	62.5
Medical students, class*				
Preclerkship	51	58.6	50	62.5
Clerkship	36	41.4	30	37.5
Faculty, years teaching				
<5 years	18	25.7	34	47.2
5–10 years	17	24.3	15	20.8
≥10 years	35	50.0	23	31.9

Note: * $P < 0.05$.

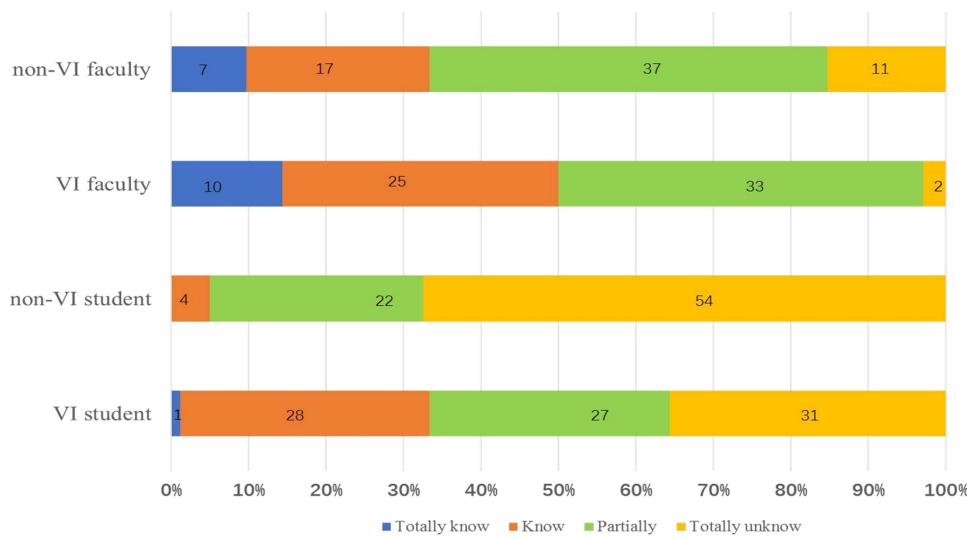


Figure 1 Differences among students and faculty from vertically integrated (VI) and non-VI curricula in terms of cognitive level, eg, knowledge about the competencies required to become a good doctor.

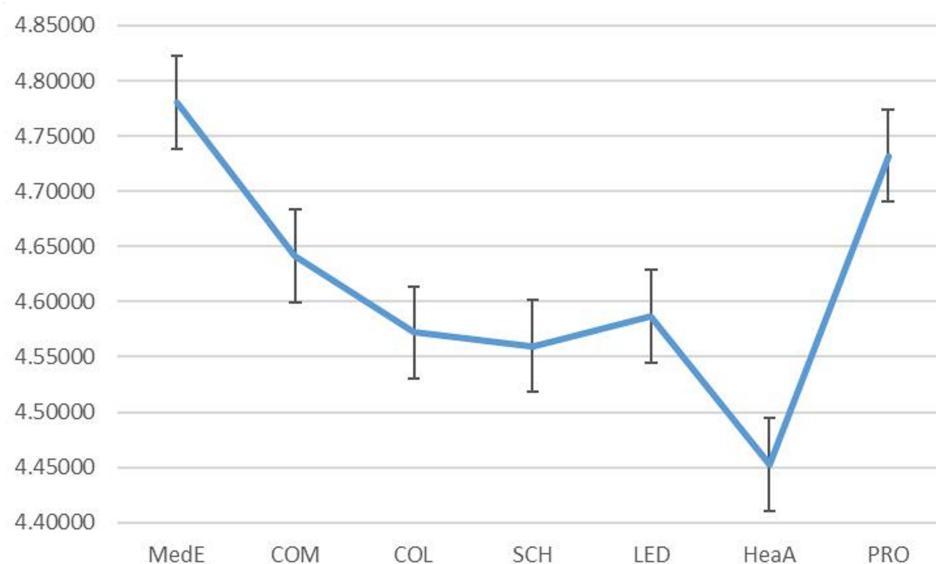


Figure 2 Mean ratings of competencies related to the CanMEDS roles by all participants. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

Abbreviations: MedE, Medical Expert; COM, Communicator; COL, Collaborator; SCH, Scholar; LED, Leader; HeaA, Health Advocate; PRO, Professionalism.

Among the top rated 10 competencies, nine were the same between faculty of VI and non-VI curricula. All faculty rated the most important competence as one from the role of Medical Expert. Compared to the 10 items top rated by faculty from non-VI curricula, the faculty of VI curricula placed more importance on the role of Communicator. We found one significant difference in the competency ranking by the faculty of VI versus non-VI curricula: “Constantly update clinical knowledge and professional skills” was ranked significantly higher by faculty of non-VI curricula (Table 3).

Among all 28 key competencies, the difference of mean rating between the faculty versus and students was greater among non-VI curricula participants than among VI curricula participants (Figures 3 and 4). The students and faculty of non-VI curricula gave statistically different mean ratings for the roles of Medical Expert ($P = 0.043$), Communicator ($P = 0.005$), Leader ($P = 0.003$), and Health Advocate ($P = 0.001$). Students and faculty from VI curricula gave significantly different ratings for competencies related to the CanMEDS roles of Communicator ($P = 0.042$), Leader ($P = 0.022$), and Health Advocate ($P = 0.021$).

Table 2 Competency Fields and Ranking Order of the Key Competencies by All Participating Medical Students

Item	Competency	VI Curricula (N = 87)		Non-VI Curricula (N = 80)	
		Rank	M ± SD	Rank	M ± SD
	Medical Expert				
Item 1	Prudent practice, pay attention to patients' safety	2	4.82 ± 0.35	2	4.83 ± 0.40
Item 2	Skillful application of basic diagnostic procedures	5	4.85 ± 0.39	7	4.85 ± 0.53
Item 3	Identify and perform on-site rescue for emergency, serious, and dangerous patients	1	4.75 ± 0.46	1	4.79 ± 0.47
Item 4	Constantly update clinical knowledge and professional skills	4	4.91 ± 0.33	3	4.81 ± 0.42
	Communicator				
Item 5	Effective listening and ability to collect comprehensive information	8	4.71 ± 0.45	12	4.73 ± 0.43
Item 6	Effective communication skills	5	4.72 ± 0.50	8	4.73 ± 0.50
Item 7	Understand, trust, and respect patients and their families	14	4.75 ± 0.51	11	4.76 ± 0.46
Item 8	Protect patients' privacy	8	4.66 ± 0.59	14	4.71 ± 0.47
	Collaborator				
Item 9	Develop patient treatment plans using a team approach	24	4.67 ± 0.50	24	4.64 ± 0.48
Item 10	Good coordination to avoid conflicts with team members	26	4.55 ± 0.61	26	4.60 ± 0.56
Item 11	Establish good cooperative relations with other departments	22	4.49 ± 0.64	22	4.65 ± 0.53
Item 12	Observe the shift system to ensure the patients' safety	13	4.56 ± 0.60	16	4.69 ± 0.54
	Scholar				
Item 13	Maintain complete medical records	21	4.59 ± 0.51	27	4.59 ± 0.52
Item 14	Effectively plan work and career	14	4.57 ± 0.62	17	4.68 ± 0.50
Item 15	Use critical thinking to manage a variety of sources of information	18	4.59 ± 0.62	19	4.66 ± 0.55
Item 16	Have the ability to translate literature, and spread and use knowledge	26	4.59 ± 0.81	14	4.71 ± 0.48
	Leader				
Item 17	Appropriate use of time, plan to handle own activities	19	4.65 ± 0.59	17	4.66 ± 0.57
Item 18	Constantly improve management capacities of organization and coordination in practice	16	4.60 ± 0.69	19	4.71 ± 0.43
Item 19	Effectively plan work and career	17	4.64 ± 0.70	12	4.68 ± 0.53
Item 20	Master of population health-related factors, such as lifestyle, environment, social interactions, etc.	8	4.63 ± 0.68	8	4.73 ± 0.45
	Health Advocate				
Item 21	Understand responsibilities to cooperate with health system management	20	4.72 ± 0.64	22	4.76 ± 0.46
Item 22	Prevention and control of infectious diseases, identify infectious disease in the community and report in a timely manner	22	4.53 ± 0.68	22	4.65 ± 0.55
Item 23	Prevention and control of infectious diseases, identify infectious disease in the community and report in a timely manner	25	4.59 ± 0.69	24	4.63 ± 0.56
Item 24	Responsible	28	4.56 ± 0.69	19	4.66 ± 0.55
	Professional				
Item 25	Self-regulation	3	4.53 ± 0.71	8	4.63 ± 0.53
Item 26	Sincere and trustworthy	8	4.53 ± 0.71	5	4.79 ± 0.43
Item 27	Precise and careful	12	4.72 ± 0.50	5	4.76 ± 0.48
Item 28		5	4.70 ± 0.57	5	4.80 ± 0.43
				3	4.81 ± 0.42

Note: Items ranked 1–10 are marked in bold; items with the same scores are ranked the same.

Discussion

The term “competence” was proposed to describe medical skills by David McClelland of Harvard University in 1973.²⁰ At present, many countries have published the competencies required to be a successful clinician, such as the six critical components of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME),²¹ the good medical practice of the General Medical Council (GMC),^{22,23} and CanMEDS. These publications have been very influential on medical

Table 3 Competency Fields and Ranking Order of the Key Competencies by All Participating Faculties

Items	Competency	VI Curricula (N = 70)		Non-VI Curricula (N = 72)	
		rank	M ± SD	rank	M ± SD
	Medical Expert				
Item 1	Prudent practice, pay attention to patients' safety	1	4.75 ± 0.33	4	4.72 ± 0.59
Item 2	Skillful application of basic diagnostic procedures	7	4.90 ± 0.30	5	4.69 ± 0.85
Item 3	Identify and perform on-site rescue for emergency, serious, and dangerous patients	2	4.66 ± 0.48	1	4.67 ± 0.71
Item 4	Identify and perform on-site rescue for emergency, serious, and dangerous patients	12	4.84 ± 0.37	2	4.76 ± 0.62
	Communicator				
Item 5	Constantly update clinical knowledge and professional skills	14	4.59 ± 0.52	2	4.74 ± 0.63*
Item 6	Effective listening and ability to collect comprehensive information	6	4.60 ± 0.43		4.49 ± 0.69
Item 7	Effective communication skills	9	4.54 ± 0.56	18	4.49 ± 0.73
Item 8	Understand, trust, and respect patients and their families	9	4.67 ± 0.47	9	4.61 ± 0.72
	Collaborator				
Item 9	Understand, trust, and respect patients and their families	9	4.60 ± 0.52	21	4.44 ± 0.79
Item 10	Protect patients' privacy	9	4.60 ± 0.49	22	4.42 ± 0.78
Item 11	Develop patient treatment plans using a team approach	20	4.53 ± 0.50		4.55 ± 0.66
Item 12	Good coordination to avoid conflicts with team members	21	4.49 ± 0.61	12	4.56 ± 0.73
Item 13	Establish good cooperative relations with other departments	14	4.47 ± 0.58	13	4.53 ± 0.71
Item 14	Observe the shift system to ensure the patients' safety	14	4.54 ± 0.56	13	4.53 ± 0.71
	Scholar				
Item 15	Observe the shift system to ensure the patients' safety	9	4.60 ± 0.49	10	4.57 ± 0.67
Item 16	Develop patient treatment plans using a team approach	16	4.53 ± 0.49	17	4.50 ± 0.63
Item 17	Good coordination to avoid conflicts with team members	18	4.53 ± 0.50	17	4.50 ± 0.67
Item 18	Establish good cooperative relations with other departments	16	4.50 ± 0.53	13	4.53 ± 0.71
Item 19	Use critical thinking to manage a variety of sources of information	22	4.47 ± 0.61	20	4.55 ± 0.66
Item 20	Have the ability to translate literature, and spread and use knowledge	24	4.46 ± 0.60	13	4.53 ± 0.69
	Leader				
Item 21	Maintain complete medical records	12	4.51 ± 0.50	10	4.57 ± 0.69
Item 22	Effectively plan work and career	17	4.40 ± 0.60	19	4.47 ± 0.67
Item 23	Appropriate use of time, plan to handle own activities	23	4.51 ± 0.58	23	4.45 ± 0.70
Item 24	Constantly improve management capacities of organization and coordination in practice	18	4.43 ± 0.60	23	4.39 ± 0.68
	Health Advocate				
Item 25	Maintain complete medical records	12	4.50 ± 0.56	23	4.39 ± 0.68
Item 26	Effectively plan work and career	18	4.33 ± 0.65		4.29 ± 0.72
Item 27	Appropriate use of time, plan to handle own activities	27	4.31 ± 0.75	25	4.36 ± 0.74
Item 28	Constantly improve management capacities of organization and coordination in practice	24	4.40 ± 0.65	25	4.36 ± 0.74
	Professional				
Item 29	Master of population health-related factors, such as lifestyle, environment, social interactions, etc.	26	4.33 ± 0.68	27	4.36 ± 0.74
Item 30	Prevention and control of infectious diseases, identify infectious disease in the community and report in a timely manner	28	4.26 ± 0.70	28	4.25 ± 0.82
	Responsibility				
Item 31	Prevention and control of infectious diseases, identify infectious disease in the community and report in a timely manner	3	4.26 ± 0.70	28	4.19 ± 0.82
Item 32	Master of population health-related factors, such as lifestyle, environment, social interactions, etc.	4	4.72 ± 0.43		4.67 ± 0.61
Item 33	Prevention and control of infectious diseases, identify infectious disease in the community and report in a timely manner	4	4.79 ± 0.41	3	4.71 ± 0.62
Item 34	Master of population health-related factors, such as lifestyle, environment, social interactions, etc.	4	4.73 ± 0.45	8	4.64 ± 0.63
Item 35	Prevention and control of infectious diseases, identify infectious disease in the community and report in a timely manner	8	4.73 ± 0.45	5	4.67 ± 0.63
Item 36	Master of population health-related factors, such as lifestyle, environment, social interactions, etc.	8	4.63 ± 0.57	7	4.65 ± 0.63

Notes: *P < 0.05. Items ranked 1–10 are marked in bold; items with the same scores are ranked the same.

education development, both nationally and internationally. Undergraduate medical education is an important stage, during which medical students establish a solid foundation of medical knowledge. Knowing the competencies that future physicians need will help undergraduate medical students identify the abilities they need to master, and make their goals more directional. All faculty of OSJSM were sent to Ottawa Medical College to receive training in teaching, and the medical education in OSJSM was more focused on the cultivation of medical students' vision and mission.²⁴ This may lead to a higher recognition rate of competencies among students and faculty of VI curricula.

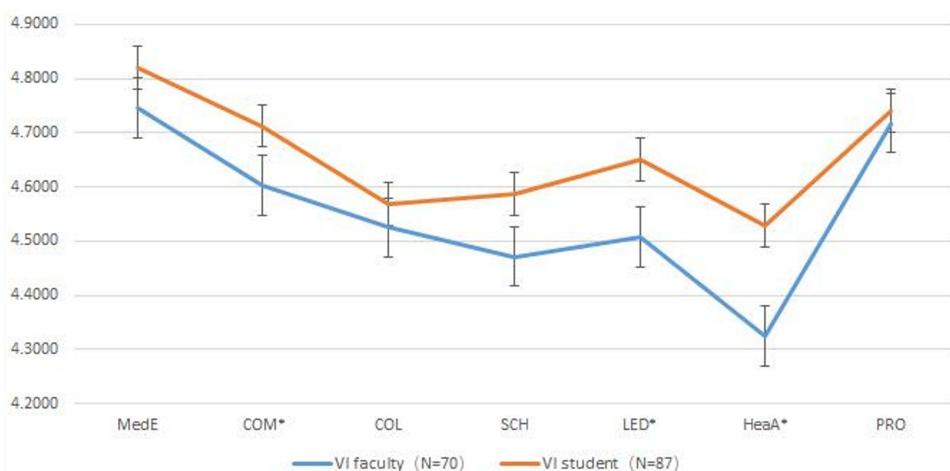


Figure 3 Appraisal of aspects of competence related to the CanMEDS roles by faculty and students from VI curricula. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. * $P < 0.05$. Abbreviations: MedE, Medical Expert; COM, Communicator; COL, Collaborator; SCH, Scholar; LED, Leader; HeaA, Health Advocate; PRO, Professionalism.

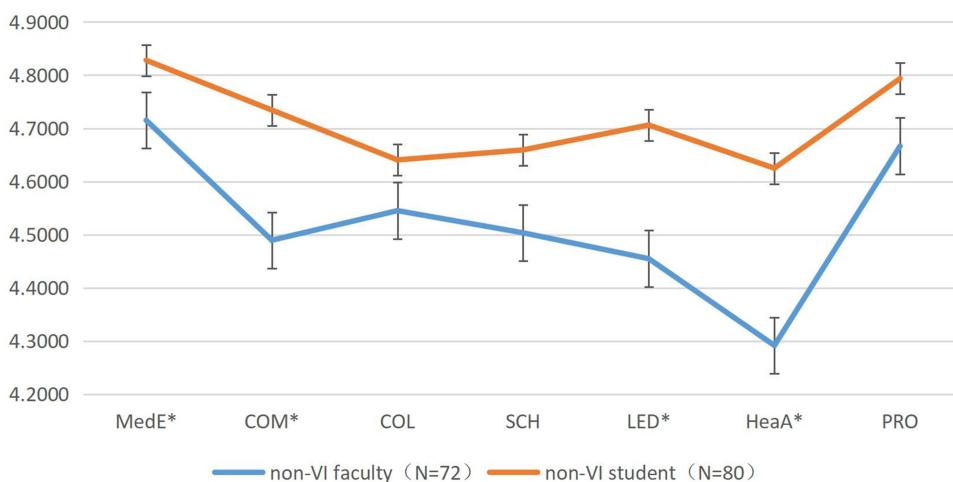


Figure 4 Appraisal of aspects of competence related to the CanMEDS roles by faculty and students from non-VI curricula. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. * $P < 0.05$. Abbreviations: MedE, Medical Expert; COM, Communicator; COL, Collaborator; SCH, Scholar; LED, Leader; HeaA, Health Advocate; PRO, Professionalism.

Respondents to our survey did not place equal value on the seven roles of CanMEDS, with all participants giving the highest rating to the role of Medical Expert. This finding differed from a previous study at the University Medical Centre Utrecht in the Netherlands, in which senior medical students appraised CanMEDS competencies and most highly scored the roles of Professionalism and Communication.¹⁸ In a study of Danish doctors, Charlotte Ringsted et al¹¹ reported that the role of Communicator was most highly rated. Thus, it was interesting that all faculty and students with different curriculum systems in China attached great importance to clinical competence. This finding may be related to the current model and evaluation system of medical education in China. The Chinese medical education system has undergone reform in recent years.²⁵ Medical education models in China had always followed “discipline-based” education, which has obvious weaknesses in terms of cultivating medical students’ abilities regarding clinical thinking and solving practical problems.²⁶ At present, the evaluation system of medical education in China is mainly focused on medical knowledge and skills. However, a comprehensive and coherent evaluation system has not yet been developed.²⁷ Our present data support the idea that medical education must involve more than medical knowledge and skills.

We also found that faculty and students considered the role of professionalism to be very important. The Charter of Medical Professionalism in the New Millennium (Charter) was published in 2002 by American and European medical

associations.²⁸ The Chinese Medical Doctors Association (CMDA) adopted the Physician Charter in 2005, and drafted the Chinese Medical Doctor Declaration (Declaration) six years later.²⁹ Similar findings were reported in a study of Chinese medical students' attitude to the Physician Charter, showing that Chinese medical students endorsed the Physician Charter and its core values of medical professionalism.³⁰ However, professionalism is not something to be temporarily learned; it is both a commitment and a skill/competency that must be practiced over a lifetime.³¹ Thus, it may be important to include aspects of professionalism in medical education in a longitudinal manner.

All students and faculty rated the role of Health Advocate as least important. Similar findings have been reported in European studies.^{18,32} The involvement of undergraduate students in health advocacy throughout medical school can inspire a long-term commitment to addressing health disparities and bridging the gap between the social determinants of health and clinical medicine.³³ However, there is no consensus regarding the best methods for teaching this critical medical competency.³⁴ A study by Verma et al³⁵ revealed that faculty knew little about how to teach and evaluate the health advocate role played by residents. Thus, the means of teaching and evaluating a subject may be related to the faculty's view of the competency's importance. It remains a challenge to effectively integrate health advocacy-related competencies into medical education.³⁶

With regards to the top rated 10 items, the role of communicator was regarded as more important by faculty and students from VI curricula than non-VI curricula. To adapt the integrative medical curricula, new methods of teaching were used to improve medical students' competencies, such as project-based learning (PBL), case-based learning (CBL), seminars, etc.³⁷ Previous research has suggested that a teaching strategy that integrates problem-based learning and simulation may be superior to traditional lectures in terms of encouraging communication skills.^{38,39} Thus, it is possible that the teaching methods of the VI curricula explain why the communicator role was considered more important by the students and faculty from the VI curricula than the non-VI curricula.

Limitations

One important weakness of this study is that it was based in one medical school with two different curricula. The response rate was somewhat low, likely due to the time-consuming task of reading and properly ranking the competency definitions. Additionally, among the respondents to the questionnaire, the internship period of medical students accounted for 3/5. Especially with non VI curricula, the competencies are mostly integrated in the clerkship period, thus this potentially influence the outcome of the intended study. A strength of our study is the recruitment of medical students especially in the clerkship period from different medical schools to evaluate the competencies. Comparison of the perspectives on the competencies between students and faculty from different curricula offers insights that will be useful for further reformation of undergraduate medical curricula.

Conclusions

CanMEDS identified the essential skills that physicians should acquire. The medical students who accept different curricular model have different perceptions of CanMEDS competencies, which may indicate that the curriculum training system pays different attention to the cultivation of students' competence. Chinese medical students and faculty rated the roles of Medical Expert and Professional as being most important. All participants scored the role of Health Advocate to be least important, which must be addressed in the future. Compared with non-VI participants, VI faculty and students rated communication ability as more important. So, two different curricular model seems to affect medical students' perspective of communication competence. In China, with the increasing tensing relationship between doctors and patients. A good communication between doctors and patients seem to be more important. Medical students are future physicians. Strengthening the training of communication ability of medical students is the need of establishing a good doctor-patient relationship, and also the need of training high-quality medical talents. The present results provide some insights that may be useful for curricula planners throughout the reform of the undergraduate medical curricula in China.

Data Sharing Statement

The data used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request. All methods were carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations.

Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate

Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the institutional research ethics committee of Shanghai Children's Medical Center Affiliated to Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine. The work was carried out in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Participants took the survey anonymously, so their personal information was protected. A consent declaration was presented before the survey, and informed consent was obtained from all subjects. Once starting the survey, participants can withdraw consent by closing the app or website, and no data will be collected.

Author Contributions

All authors made a significant contribution to the work reported, whether that is in the conception, study design, execution, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation, or in all these areas; took part in drafting, revising or critically reviewing the article; gave final approval of the version to be published; have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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