

# Impact of Philosophy-based Teaching on Professional Identity Formation in First-Year Osteopathic Medical Students

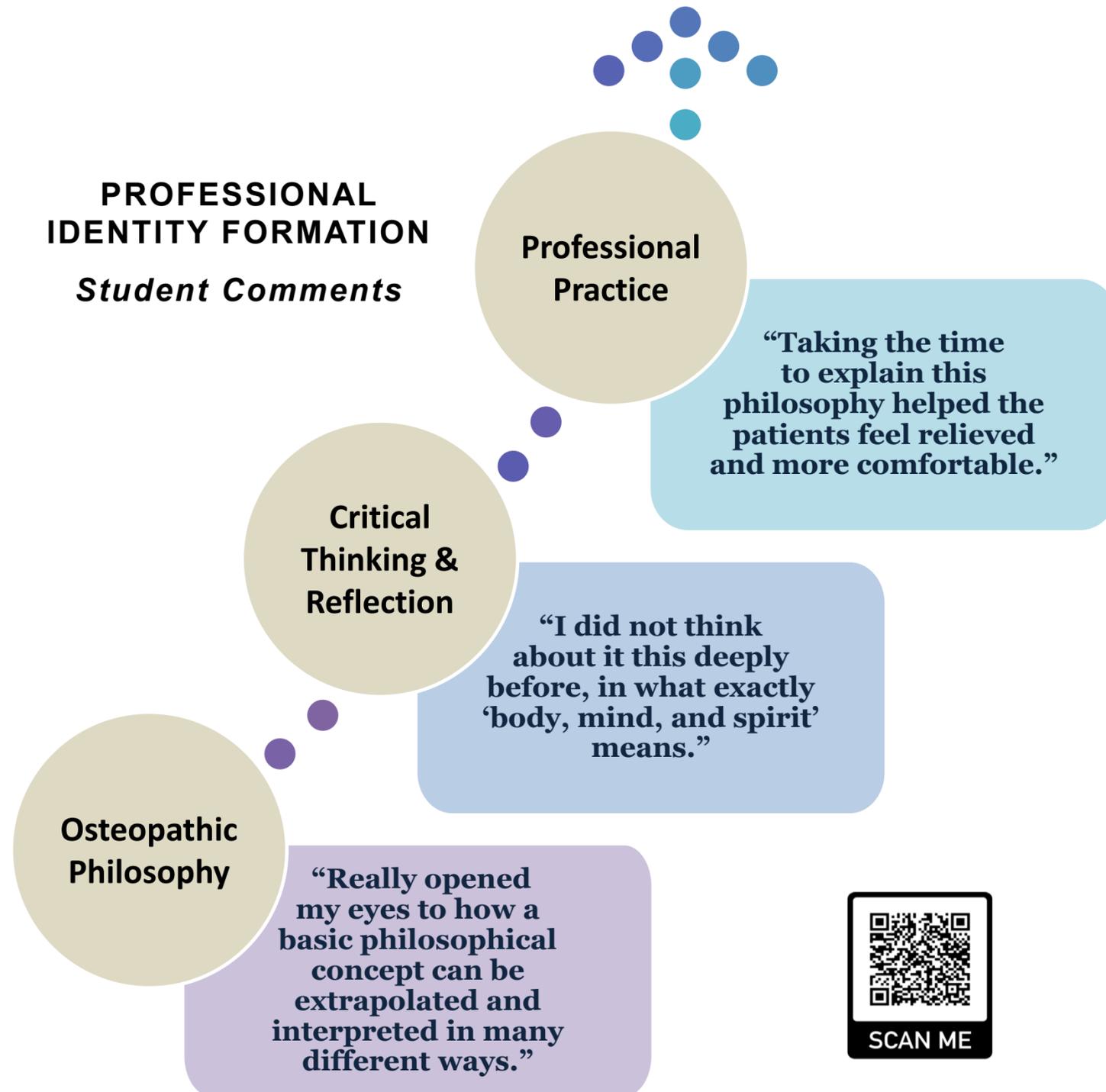


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## PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY FORMATION

### Student Comments



## INTRODUCTION

Teaching osteopathic philosophy is important for the development of osteopathic medical students professional identity but few resources are available. Therefore, an interdisciplinary team of a philosophy professor, osteopathic physician, and professor of medical education created a module for 1st year osteopathic medical students. This module focused on the first osteopathic tenet: “the body is a unit; the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.”

## METHODS

1. Initial reflection on osteopathic philosophy
2. Teaching intervention
3. Standardized patient telehealth experience
4. Post-intervention reflection on osteopathic philosophy

## TEACHING INTERVENTION

Students explored several western and non-western approaches to “body, mind, spirit”, core ideas of osteopathic philosophy in an online module. They then engaged in a series of case-based discussions and writing exercises where they were required to compare the strengths and weakness of each approach and apply them to patient care. Students conducted telehealth visits with standardized patients where they had to explain osteopathic philosophy. The aim of this telehealth visit is to reinforce the student’s practical application of that philosophy.

## RESULTS

Triangulation of data from the standardized patients and written reflections showed that post intervention, students adopted a more holistic, patient-centered view of care that focused on active listening and acknowledging the roles of social, cultural and spiritual contexts in optimizing patient care.

## SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

By using standard philosophical approaches, students are better able to critically think and articulate their understanding of osteopathic philosophy.

## REFERENCES

Cairney, William J., et al. "Identification of distinctive characteristics, principles, and practices of the osteopathic physician in the current health care system." *Osteopathic Family Physician* 4.4 (2012): 110-117.

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