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## Framework for Integrating Service Learning Projects into Healthcare Curricula

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## Framework for Integrating Service Learning Projects into Healthcare Curricula

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### Teaching Practice

Use of evidence-based fall prevention programs such as Stepping On can be used to help healthcare students apply didactic knowledge, gain experience working with patients, and grow in many areas of professionalism while serving the community and positively impacting the health of society.

### Needs it Addresses

This service learning project offers great application to any healthcare focused degree with four strategic aims

1. Train students to lead an evidence-based fall prevention program (16 hours)
2. Provide the program to minimize falls in older adults (7 2-hr weekly classes)
3. Facilitate faculty mentorship of group of students as they deliver fall prevention education and exercise instruction
4. Utilize empathy and engagement in a multigenerational learning environment through participation and reflection

### Evidence it Benefits Students

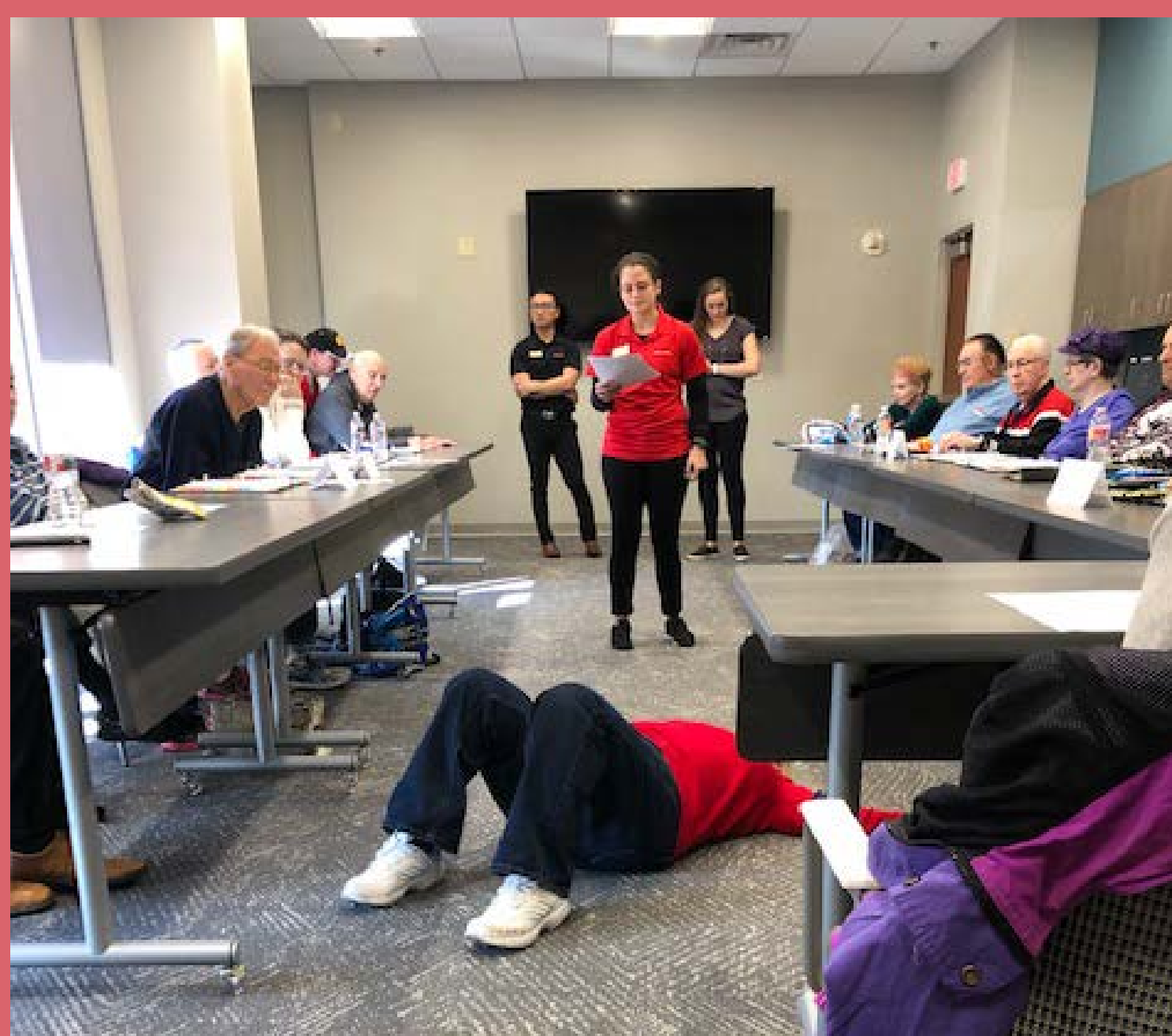
Reflections following the *Stepping On* program demonstrated improvements in all core values with two common themes: **compassion/caring and excellence.**

Beyond the core values, the students also gained valuable experiences with **fall prevention principles and leadership skills.**

The growth of each student was evident in the way they were able to work together to develop relationships with community partners, organize a successful program, respond to setbacks, and facilitate transfer of knowledge through the fall prevention course.

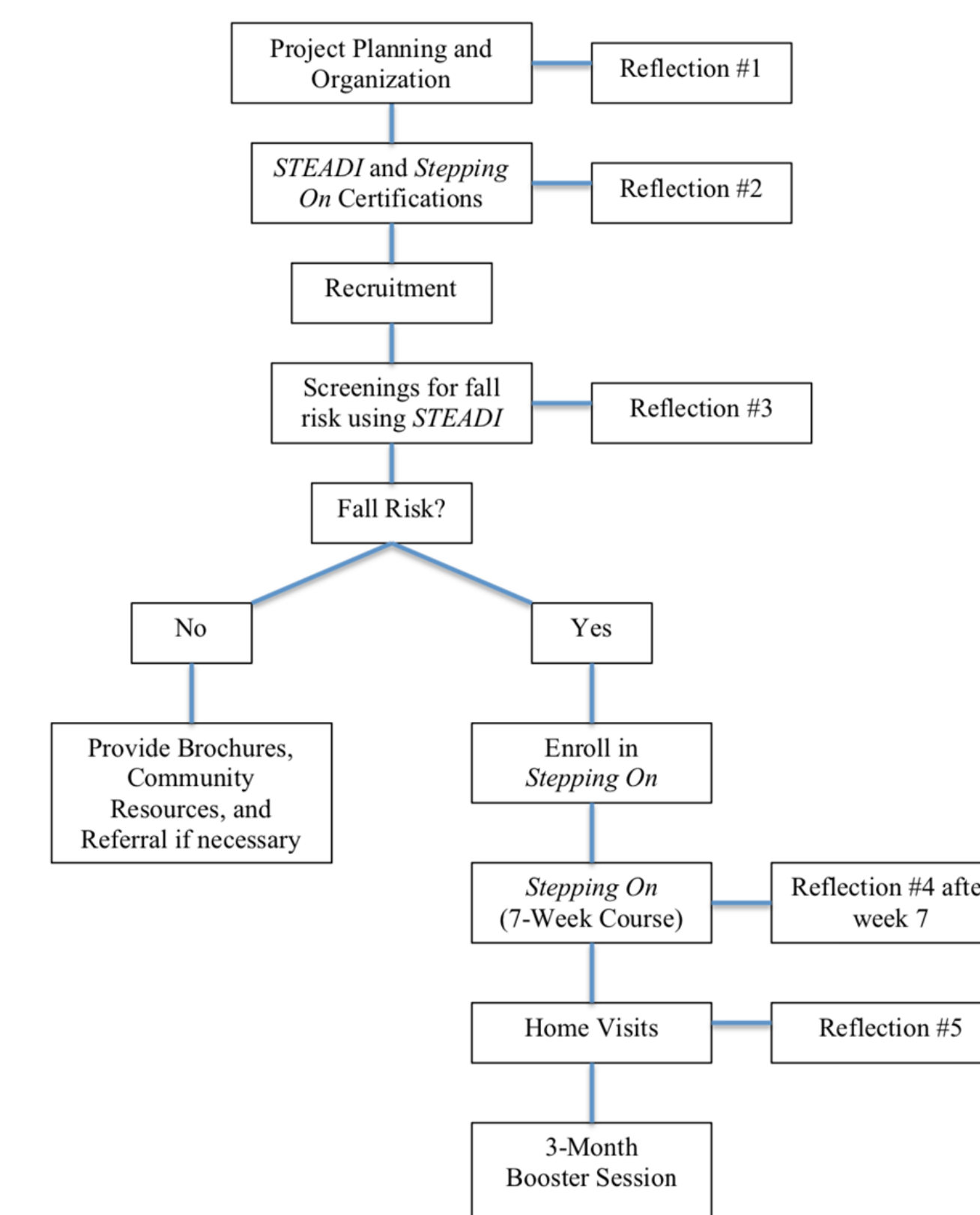
Each student took accountability for their personal preparation and responded to feedback developing effective techniques for facilitation of group discussion and instruction of therapeutic exercises.

Service learning projects are an effective method for UNLV students to develop professional values, increase confidence, and foster commitment to service while offering meaningful service to their communities.



Download more information on this UNLVPT service learning project

## Sequencing of the student -lead service learning project.



## Resources & References

- Hou YJ et al. A Pediatric Service-Learning Program in Physical Therapy Education *Pediatr Phys Ther* 2018;30:149–154.
- Wise HH, Yuen HK. Effect of Community-based Service Learning on Professionalism in Student Physical Therapists. *J Phys Ther Educ*. 2013;27(2):58-64.
- American Physical Therapy Association Core Values Self-Assessment <http://www.apta.org/CoreValuesSelfAssessment/>
- CDC – STEADI toolkit for health professionals <https://www.cdc.gov/steadi/index.html>
- National Council on Aging Fall Prevention <https://www.ncoa.org/healthy-aging/falls-prevention/>
- Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging [https://wihealthaging.org/stepping-on-north-America\\_1](https://wihealthaging.org/stepping-on-north-America_1).

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