**Sample Decision-Making Flow Chart**

**Do you know if/when abortion and family planning training are already covered? How much time do they get?**

- **I have no idea!**
  - It’s a good idea to assess your curriculum before advocating for change within it. Fill out MSFC’s Curriculum Assessment Graph with a group of students from different classes.

- **I remember which of my classes covered these topics, but I’m in my pre-clinical years.**
  - Ask a few students from clinical years to help you fill out MSFC’s Curriculum Assessment Graph for the classes you have yet to take.

- **Yes, I know exactly when abortion and family planning topics and how many hours of education we receive.**
  - What kind of training is already included in the curriculum?

**Abortion isn’t brought up once. / We don’t discuss hormonal birth control. / We don’t have a reproductive health elective.**

- It may be best to start small. Can you think of ways to incorporate family planning education in your curriculum without redesigning a whole block or lecture series? How about adding a vignette into a problem-based learning module or including a hormonal contraception slide in a pharmacology lecture?

**It’s brought up in our Ethics class. / We discussed medication abortion once in pharmacology. / Our professor lectured on miscarriage management once.**

- It sounds like there is some precedent that you can work from. Does your administration/faculty respond well to students asking for curriculum changes?
  - **No.**
    - Try expanding coverage where it’s already addressed, like including an MVA overview in the lecture about miscarriage management.
  - **Yes.**
    - Now could be the time to give abortion education a place of its own! You could work towards including abortion and contraception lectures in a women’s health elective or adding a series of clinical cases to a reproductive health module.

**Awesome! Now it’s time to start thinking about where you can find support. Is your school’s student body hostile or supportive? Do you know how the faculty and administration may react to your proposal?**

- **Our school environment is hostile, but I have the support of a few faculty members.**
  - Include those results in a proposal to the administration! Even if they don’t move forward with your plan, they will now know that students expect to have abortion and family planning training. You can always go back and choose another avenue to try. If they decide to implement your proposal, congratulations! Be sure to stay involved through the implementation process to help ensure that this positive change is permanent.

- **Our student body is supportive, but our administration is not.**
  - Surveying your fellow students can help both determine the level of support you have for your reform project and amplify your voice when proposing your ideas to the administration. They’re more likely to listen when the majority of students are asking for change.
  - Were the survey results in favor of reform?
    - **No.**
      - If you don’t think you will get any support from the administration or students, try working one-on-one with supportive faculty members. There are often ways to include pro-choice education in a curriculum by speaking to your professors about including more information on slides.
    - **Yes.**
      - Include those results in a proposal to the administration! Even if they don’t move forward with your plan, they will now know that students expect to have abortion and family planning training. You can always go back and choose another avenue to try.

- **I’m not sure.**
  - Now that you’ve established precedent for curriculum reform, be sure to pass on this information to the next group of leaders, so that they can build off your success!

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**Remember:** this is just ONE simplified example of a decision-making process. Each school is different, and each reform effort will be, too. Use this as a tool to help build an action plan, but don’t feel like you have to incorporate the specific ideas listed. Often, curriculum reform will not be this straightforward—that’s why we at MSFC HQ are here to help!