

RESEARCH PROJECT (2007/2009/2011):

Alienation and engagement in undergraduate (first year) Health Sciences studies

FUNDING: FIRLT & Teaching Development Grant

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HYPOTHESIS: Alienation and engagement influence students learning experiences at a higher education institution

OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this study is to investigate whether alienation and engagement of students in the MBChB undergraduate environment at Stellenbosch University are related to the academic performances of those students. The study aims to address the following research questions: 1. What degree of alienation do students in the undergraduate MBChB programme experience in the 3 domains proposed by Case (2007b) and what factors generate these perceptions? 2. Is the degree of alienation experienced by students related to their academic performance?

FINDINGS: Pending data analysis of five cohorts of students (MB,ChB II 2008 – 2010; MB,ChB I – 2010; MB,ChB I - 2011)

ARTICLES: n/a

CONFERENCES: n/a