

RESEARCH PROJECT (2007 – 2011): Phase 1: Perspectives of first year students about foundation phase of the revised curricula of certain undergraduate programmes of the Faculty of Health Sciences: Implementing date 2008.

In Phase 2 the same students who were interviewed in their first year (2008), are interviewed in their second year to determine medium term impact.

FUNDING: FIRLT

PROJECT LEADER: Dr AJN Louw

CO-WORKERS: J Bezuidenhout; BB van Heerden; M van Heusden

HYPOTHESIS: Quality assurance mechanisms can facilitate effective changes to a new programme

OBJECTIVES: A revised curriculum for certain undergraduate programmes (MB,ChB; BSc Phys; B Occupational Therapy) was implemented in 2008. In the 1st semester of the 1st year a new foundation phase was presented. The main differences compared to the old curriculum are that the content is more contextualized in terms of the clinical phases which follow in the subsequent years of study. The development of personal, professional and generic skills is also included in this phase. Success in the foundation phase can be determined by means of various forms of assessment. The performance of students, as well as the through put figure will inter alia reflect the contribution of the foundation phase to student successes. Perspectives from students and lecturers who were involved in the reviewed foundation phase provided the faculty with important information about the revised curriculum. Innovative changes were made and these were implemented in 2009. The second phase of the project (2009 and 2010) focused on the perceptions of the same students who were interviewed in 2008 to determine medium term impact. First year students were again interviewed in 2009 and 2010 to determine their views on the amended curriculum.

FINDINGS: The findings of the second phase of the project provided further insights into those areas of the curriculum that need further revision or refinement.

FURTHER RESEARCH: The last and final phase of the project was completed in 2010.

ARTICLES: Pending

CONFERENCES: First phase: 2007/2008/2009 Presentations at SOTL and 2009 at SAAHE. Poster presentations: 2007/2009 AMEE. 2009 poster – first prize at conference in Malaga, Spain; 2009 SAFRI.