



NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY FOUNDATION PHASE FOR HEALTH SCIENCES AT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY



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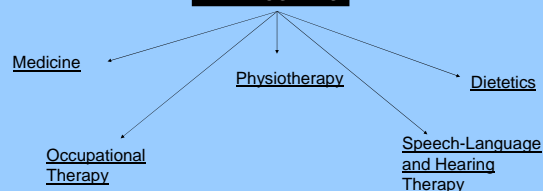
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INTRODUCTION

The Faculty of Health Sciences hosts five different undergraduate programs:

FIVE PROGRAMS



- Currently semester one for medicine consists of 4 modules: Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Data Management

CURRICULAR REVISION

Started in 2003

□ RATIONALE

- Larger intake of academically disadvantaged students
- Pressure from Government for shortening of medical curricula in country

□ PROCESS

- Workshops involving all stakeholders
- Comprehensive revision of semester one (Foundation Phase)
- Restructuring of rest of curriculum

□ OBJECTIVES FOR REVISION OF SEMESTER ONE

- To contextualize the pure natural science content of semester one as far as possible within the health science disciplines
- To integrate the essential components of the current first semester into either the foundation phase, or in the clinical phases
- To make more provision for the learning of professional and generic skills
- To develop a foundation phase in which students from all undergraduate programs can participate
- To ensure that the outcomes and content of the new modules in the Foundation Phase are in line with the exit outcomes of the participating disciplines

ANTICIPATED ADVANTAGES

- Enhancement of inter-disciplinary approach
- Better insight in different health occupations
- Better prepared students for clinical phases
 - More effective management
 - Less fragmentation
 - More cost effective

NEW FOUNDATION PHASE (Semester one)

(for implementation in 2008)

MODULE 1

Personal & Professional Development

Theme 1: Overview of different health professions; importance of an interdisciplinary approach.

Theme 2: Academic literacy.

Theme 3: Language skills:

- Afrikaans
- English
- isiXhosa

Theme 4: Personal Management; Interpersonal interaction:

- Learning styles & Study methods
- Stress management
- Group dynamics
- Diversity

Theme 5: Nature & structure of consultation; Stellenbosch Health Professional clinical model; Bio-psychosocial model.

MODULE 3

Chemistry for Health Sciences

- Chemical bonding and structures
- Reaction types
- Hydrocarbons; alkyl halides; alcohols thioalcohols; phenols
- Ethers and thioethers
- Aldehydes and ketones
- Stereochemistry
- Carbohydrates; carboxylic acids
- Lipids; carboxylic acid derivatives; esters and thioesters
- Amino acids; peptides and proteins; aliphatic and aromatic amines; ammonium salts; lactams; nitriles; nucleic acids

MODULE 2

Life Forms and Functions of Clinical Importance

Theme 1:

- Living organisms
- Embryology of Chordata
- Origin & Development of humans

Theme 2:

- Basic cell structure
- Intracellular organelles
- Development of the cytoskeleton
- Structure and function of the nucleus
- The extra-cellular matrix
- Cell adhesions
- Structure and function of epithelium
- Connective tissue and muscle tissue
- Basic physiological processes
- Functions of Blood & Immune system
- Anatomical structures (vertebral column; heart; kidney; eye & ear)

MODULE 4

Health in Context

Theme 1: Psychosocial perspectives on health:

- WHO-definition of "health"
- Sociological concepts
- Interpersonal relationships.

Theme 2: Risk factors for illness & health promotion:

- Concepts indicators of health;
- Incidence and patterns of disease in RSA
- Types of study designs
- Spreadsheet processing & analysis
- Research

Theme 3: Applied bio-ethics and professionalism:

- Individual vs profession and the law
- Ethical questions
- Professional codes of conduct
- Health legislation

Theme 4: Overview of health services and professions:

- History of health Care
- Origin of hospitals;
- Health Care Act of 2003;
- Legal structures