

## General overview: Becoming a Professional (PPH1001F)/ Becoming a Health Professional (PPH1002S)

Becoming a Professional (BP) is a half course which runs in the first half of year one whilst Becoming a Health Professional (BHP) is offered in the second semester of year one. The two courses introduce all first-year students registered in the Faculty of Health Sciences (Audiology, Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy and Language Pathology) to the process of developing professional conduct and an understanding of the role of professionalism in their interactions with colleagues and the public. As the first building blocks, the process of becoming a health care professional is framed around five principles namely: commitment to promoting health and wellness in the context of the individual, family and community; commitment to practising 'whole person care'; commitment to being a reflective practitioner; commitment to health, human rights and social responsibility and commitment to practice within a health team. By the end of the year, it is expected that students will have achieved the following:

### *BP specific outcomes*

- Have a working knowledge of how people interact and what facilitates good interpersonal skills between individuals and in groups.
- Demonstrate basic interpersonal and interviewing techniques.
- Become aware of and understand the implications of stress and burnout on themselves.
- Become aware of and understand the impact of HIV/AIDS on themselves.
- Acquire basic life support skills.

### *BHP specific outcomes*

- Develop a basic understanding of Primary Health Care - its origins, philosophy, links to wider healthcare debates (including National Health Insurance) and implementation in practice.
- Have a basic understanding of disability as an equity issue.
- Appreciate the value the contribution of different health professionals in the promotion, maintenance and support of health and health care of individuals, families and communities.
- Have practical experience in applying the above knowledge, skills and values within a community-oriented project.

The educational approach that is adopted in the two courses is participatory, experiential, team and project based. Knowledge transfer to first year students includes an introductory weekly 45-minute didactic lecture followed by three-hour weekly group activities that are facilitated by part time lecturers in small groups of 12 students either on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. A range of in-course performance-based assessment strategies that include essay writing, computer-based assessments, poster development, group presentation are used to assess an acquisition of a set skills as well as the ability of students to reflect as integrated health care professionals. At the end of each semester, students have an opportunity to anonymously evaluate the two courses and provide feedback on different aspects of BP and BHP courses.

The two courses - Becoming a Professional and Becoming a Health Professional provide a unique and safe space for first year students to learn about themselves, learn from each other and about one another.