

## PERSPECTIVES OF FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ON THE NEW FOUNDATION PHASE

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
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## INTRODUCTION

- Background
- Aim of research
- Method of research
- Findings
- Lessons learned
- The way forward

## Background

- Need for substantial changes to first year
- Interdisciplinary teaching & learning approach
- Contextualise the natural sciences
- Revised curriculum implemented 2008
- Started – implementation of Foundation Phase → first semester of first year

## FOUNDATION PHASE

### 1. Personal & Professional Development

1. Professional identity & development
2. Academic Literacy
3. Language development
4. Personal & Interpersonal Management
5. The consultation

### 2. Life Forms & Functions of Clinical Importance

Biology  
Anatomy  
Physiology  
Histology

### 4. Health in Context

1. Psychosocial perspective
2. Risk factors for diseases
3. Bio-ethics & professionalism
4. Overview of health services

### 3. Chemistry for Health Sciences

Organic chemistry

## Aim of research

- Monitor implementation of revised curriculum
- To obtain feedback on scientific manner
- To intervene timeously
- To improve curriculum

## RESEARCH METHOD

- Approach: Explorative and Qualitative
- Aim: To describe and explain the perspectives of students
- Data generation: Focus groups; Individual interviews; Evaluation forms
- Time: Mid first semester & end first semester
- Data analysis: Two analysers independently – analytical abstraction (3 levels)

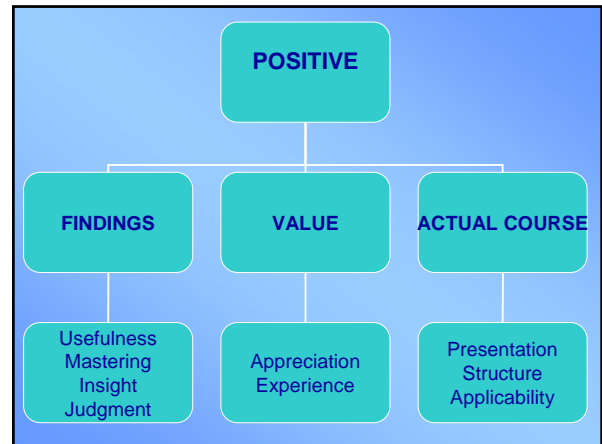
## FINDINGS

- Positive
- Negative

- **Contradictions**

*... the stress course – I like that course very much – I enjoy the classes it's very nice...*

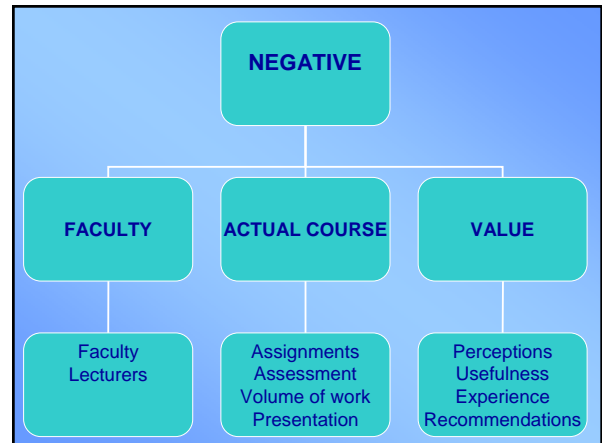
*The stress management theme was a bit unnecessary. It caused me to even stress more...*



I found the contact sessions very helpful and the study material and information covered - I find it very relevant for our futures as health workers.

This module was very interesting and it dealt with a lot of different interesting topics. I think that it will profit students in future.

*...at least you can see the relevance of this thing [Foundation Phase], and we appreciate it . So my overall experience is good and I'm very positive.*



... like the one lecture, you have this one theme or one section and the next lecture you start another theme or another section – and you end of with all these different sections – its like different chapters – there is no like structured order.

but to come together as students an actually work on things – you know after hours – as it is, we have lectures from 8am – 4pm everyday basically – so, to get together after hours is very difficult coming from different areas and some of us is coming from very far.

*a lot of information are taught to the students in the course – and that's going to get lost after the semester – because it is not fully integrated.*

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Difference between freshman students and academically experienced students
- Change of perspectives over semester
- Importance of structure
- Importance of synchronising

## LESSONS LEARNED (continue)

- Less is more
- The importance of transfer of learning
- Students positive attitude & determination
- High marks still highest priority

## WAY FORWARD

- Theme; Module & Phase meetings
- Replanning
- Implementation in 2009
- Continuing of research

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