

# **Students' Attitudes Towards Bachelor of Science Degree Program and Potential Career Paths at a Health Sciences University in Pretoria, South Africa**

## **2)Professional Development**

### **Poster Presentation**

#### **Abstract**

Education plays an important role in providing students with better career opportunities and students enroll for higher education because they believe that it will contribute to an improvement in their career opportunities. For specialist disciplines, outcomes of getting employment are much higher whereas, for general disciplines such as the Bachelor of Sciences (BSc), the job prospects are still unknown. The questions being addressed in the study are: What are the attitudes of the students towards Bachelor of Science degree program at a health sciences university in Pretoria? What are the potential career paths related to a Bachelor of Science degree program? Hence, the aim of the study was to assess the perceptions of the students towards the BSc degree program and the potential career paths. The study was based on the John Holland's Theory of Career Choice (RIASEC). The majority (74.6%) of the 148 registered BSc degree (Biological Sciences) students who completed the questionnaires, did not have prior knowledge about the BSc degree program and were not adequately informed about the program during the registration process. Most (94.9%) of the participants did not select the BSc degree program as their first choice of study and 83.0% of the participants indicated that they would change to other courses if they were presented with an option to change with the majority (63.1%) choosing Medicine. Even though 56.8% of the participants felt that the curriculum was relevant, 74.6% of the participants felt that the curriculum did not prepare them for jobs with 83.9% of them stating that there was a need for them to do other courses after completing the BSc degree program so that they could be employable. Only 38.9% of the participants indicated that there were adequate career paths to follow after completing a BSc degree. The majority (61.0%) of the participants responded that there were not enough course modules to choose from under the BSc degree program and only 38.1% and 34.7% of the participants would pursue postgraduate degrees related to

the BSc degree and recommend the BSc degree to other people respectively. Even though the majority (67.8%) of the participants felt that their lecturers were prepared for the lectures, 68.6% of them were not inspired to become scientists by their lecturers. Half (50.4%) of the participants did not have any regrets about doing the BSc degree program. The recommendation is that science students at all levels of study should be provided with guidance and awareness about potential job opportunities associated with the BSc degree program. The university management should also market the BSc program more to youths at secondary schools.