

To All 2019 First year undergraduate SLH Students

(sent per email)

Department: Professional Board

Designation: Chairperson of the Board

Reference: Stakeholder Engagement

Date: 07 March 2019

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON WELCOMING 2019 FIRST YEAR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TO THE SPEECH LANGUAGE AND HEARING PROGRAMMES

On behalf of the Professional Board for Speech Language and Hearing Professions, I Dr Sadna Balton, Chairperson of Professional Board takes this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the 2019 first year undergraduate students enrolled in Speech Language Therapy and Audiology programmes.

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is a statutory body established under the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974, committed to protecting the public and guiding the professions. The HPCSA, in conjunction with its twelve (12) Professional Boards, guides and regulates the health professions in the country in aspects pertaining to registration, education and training, professional conduct and ethical behavior, ensuring continuing professional development, and fostering compliance with healthcare standards. The Professional Board for Speech Language and Hearing is established as a coordinating body for all the healthcare practitioners in the Speech Language and Hearing profession, to deal with any matters relating to these professions.

The Professional Board for Speech Language and Hearing (one of the twelve Professional Boards) is responsible for the following functions (list is not exhaustive):

- ensuring no unqualified person practices your profession
- maintains oversight of impairments and professional conduct issue
- recognising you as a competent practitioner who may command a reward for service rendered
- set standards of professional behaviour
- guiding you on the best practices in healthcare delivery (please check our website for guidelines)
- contributing to quality standards that promote the health of all South Africans
- acting against unethical practitioners

All individuals who practise any of the health care professions incorporated in the scope of the HPCSA are obliged by the Health Professions Act No. 56 of 1974 i.e. section 17 (2) of the Act, to register with the Council. Failure to do so constitutes a criminal offence. Benefits of registration with the HPCSA are;

- Conferral of professional status to the practitioner, inclusive of the right to practise the profession that he/she is qualified for,
- The assurance that no unqualified person may practise these professions, and
- Credibility as a competent practitioner who may command a reward for his/her services.

In order for you to meet requirements for registration you are expected to show evidence of a range of clinical training across the scope of the profession. Please ensure that you are getting this exposure, you are encouraged to address any concerns with your institution. Further, you are required to comply with the ethical rules and standards set out by the HPCSA.

I wish you success in your academic journey. May you develop a passion for the profession and the people we serve.

For any information or assistance from the Council kindly direct your enquiries to the Call Centre:

Tel: 012 338 9300/01

Fax: 012 328 5120

Email: info@hpcsa.co.za



Dr Sadna Balton

Chairperson of the Professional Board for Speech Language

And Hearing Professions