

# ONE GENERIC COMPETENCE

ABILITY TO TRANSLATE  
KNOWLEDGE INTO PRACTICE

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Students have taken an extra step to improve their competence beyond class and university wall. They have managed to work on mainly their social and critical thinking competences. Personal management has also been fully covered in class sessions and even within the hospital walls.

# METHODOLOGY

- ▣ The data collected in this report was via face to face interaction with my interviewees in order to get first hand information and responses.
- ▣ Two people were interviewed.
- ▣ I took approximately two hours with each interviewee in a period of three days.

# RESEARCH FINDINGS

## ▣ QUESTION 1

Which course was the most effective to helping you develop this competence? Explain why?

There was a difference in the answers given in that interviewee 1 stated that learning Anatomy in first year was the most beneficial. He believes that the theory classes combined with the chance to get a hands on experience in the dissection lab will make him a very good surgeon later in life.

Interviewee 2 believed that the course on junior clerkship done in third up to sixth year is the most beneficial since you get the opportunity to interact with the patient and make a diagnosis all by yourself and also get to see the features of the condition.

## QUESTION 2

List the course related activities which have helped you to develop this competence outside the class, either working on your own or with other students. Which of these activities were the most effective in helping you develop the competence? Explain why?

For interviewee 1, getting the opportunity to do a Bachelor in Science in Anatomy and on top of that, teach the first years anatomy is something he considers a stepping stone to becoming a

very good doctor. Teaching helps him remember a lot of anatomy through constant repetition and seeing the structures frequently.

Interviewee 2 does a lot of history taking, clinical exams, attends ward rounds and constantly joins the doctors in the clinics. So far, going to the clinic has been the most effective since she gets to see first hand how to approach the patient and interpret the complaints into a diagnosis and even formulate a management under the supervision of a doctor.

3. Which aspects of the competence have you developed by being a member of an association, a club or a social group? Give some details

Here, both interviewees agreed that the aspect best developed was critical thinking. Clubs and associations like Medical Students Association of Kenya and One Health allow students to take part in solving upcoming issues like availability of healthcare to the rural areas and formulate ideas. Also, discussion groups assist in that students discuss cases and questions and their answers by using past papers.

Interviewee 2 also added that the aspect of personal management has been developed in that associations like Kenya Medical Association provides mentorship and role models to young doctors and advice on how to achieve a life work balance.

## QUESTION 4

In the course guide or in the class presentations was there any reference to this competence, if so give further information. Was the competence assessed in any of your units or modules, if so give further information. Will you be able to provide evidence of this achievement to an employer?

Both interviewees being of the same class agreed that critical thinking has been thoroughly assessed in class. This is through the cases we're given to discuss during classes like in Hematology, and the question and answer session done after lectures and the presentations done in psychiatry.

Personal management was addressed where there was a whole series of lectures on how to dress and address our seniors and also patients. This is normally assessed through exams and presentations done in class to various lectures, and through history presentations in the ward rounds. This is evidenced by exam transcripts.

## QUESTION 5

Outside the university which aspects of the competence have you developed? Give some details. Have you done anything else in your life that has helped you develop this competence? Give an example.

There was a consensus that social skill has been fully developed through attending conferences like the Surgical Society of Kenya conference held in December 2016, the One Health conference in 2016, attending Continuous Medical Education seminars. They give one the opportunity to interact with peers and also

other professionals in the medical industry and understand different approaches to life and cultures. Interviewee 1 has had the opportunity to be part of the organizing team of Ubongo Awareness Campaign which was about brain disease awareness and interviewee 2 goes for electives in her home town and gets the chance to learn, share and interact with different professionals and other peers in the same field.

## QUESTION 6

After reflecting on the different contexts in which you have developed this competence[in class, outside class, in clubs and associations, in real life and any other contexts in question 5] write a short statement how each of the contexts has contributed to your development of this competence and on their relative strengths.

Both parties agreed that social competence is best achieved outside the class since you get the opportunity to interact with people, acquire basic skills like resuscitation and learn different languages. You also get to form new friendships and connections, unlike in class where you can only interact with the same people everyday.

## QUESTION 7

Do you think you have fully developed this competence? What else can you do to improve your level of competence while you're a student? How do you think you will go on to develop this competence when you're working?

There was a mutual consensus that no one has fully developed this competence. They both need to do more studying and get more hands-on experiences with patients in order to become good doctors. When they finally become doctors, they will attend more

continuous medical education seminars and sign up for fellowships and also keep updating themselves on the latest developments in the medical sector for example by using medscape

# CONCLUSION

Though competence is a very important in this medical field, more needs to be done to improve the level of confidence in future doctors. A course like internal medicine not only has the most important theory but also guides on how to do various procedures and how to diagnose various conditions. Both interviewees and the interviewer agree that critical thinking is the most important aspect and much has been done to develop it.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▣ There should be more class lectures on how to diagnose various conditions
- ▣ University should organize more events that lead to the interaction of students with senior doctors and also their peers in other universities doing the same course.
- ▣ A certificate of good conduct should be issued to students at the end of the course. This will be a form of evidence that may appeal to the employers.