

WHAT CHARACTERIZES AN EXCELLENT SOCIAL WORKER? Perceptions of teachers in contrast to the working field

M. Achterkamp, C. Rijkens, P. Robbe, I. Wijkamp en M.V.C. Wolfensberger

Rationale

- In 2015 the profile of an excellent Social Worker was published (figure 1), based on focus groups discussions with Social Workers. The following question arose: "What do teachers think about the profile and how do they put this into practice?"
- To investigate this, we formulated three research questions:
 - What do teachers think about the profile of the excellent Social Worker (figure 2)?
 - How do teachers stimulate the competences that compose the profile by their students (regular and Honours, figure 3)?
A complementary third question was also asked:
 - What are the most important qualities of regular x honours students (figure 4)?
- Wolfsberger, 2012. Teaching for excellence - Honors Pedagogies revealed
- Relevance**
 - Opinions of the Social Work teachers regarding the profile
 - Input for implementing of the excellent Social Worker profile in the honours program.

Profile of the Excellent Social Worker

Thinks out of the box:
Differs on rules and protocols when necessary

Communicates free of judgement:
Uses the experience of the cliënt

Connects people:
Collaborates with different organizations

Is innovative:
Works proactive

Is self-reflective:
Recognizes and accepts their own qualities and restrictions

Figure 1: Profile and some aspects

Results research question 1

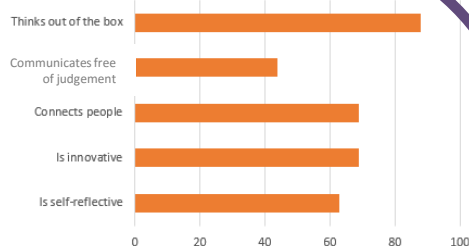


Figure 2: Percentage teachers (total n=35) that agree with domains from the profile of the excellent Social Worker

Regular students vs. honours students; the student...

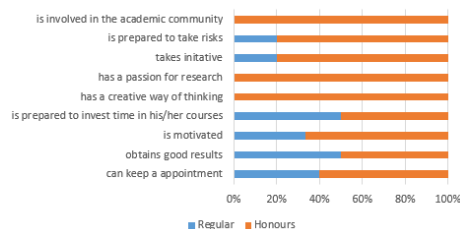


Figure 3: Percentage of teachers (total n=9) who perceive each quality as being characteristic of regular x honours students.

How do teachers stimulate students?

Reflection
Consciousness
Unique
Contact with the workfield
Ask challenging questions
Questions
Dialogue
Supervision
Interaction

Figure 4: Most common methods teachers (total n=5) use to explain how they stimulate honours students

Conclusions

- The profile of the excellent Social Worker is supported by most of the teachers



Mirte Achterkamp, student Social Work
m.i.achterkamp@st.hanze.nl



Carolien Rijkens, student Social Work
c.rijkens@st.hanze.nl

share your talent.
move the world.



Hanzehogeschool Groningen