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Shared generic competences of health and social professionals in university education

The integration of health and social care services is changing the way professionals work in a more multidisciplinary way, increasing the need for generic competences that unite all professional groups. The new competence requirements are reflected in the content of degree programmes. This study took a multidisciplinary approach to examine the perspectives of university teaching staff on generic competences linking the health and social professions. The study was conducted as focus group interviews and the material was analysed by theory-driven content analysis. According to the results, the basis of generic competences is scientific knowledge and evidence-based practice, on which the systemic competences and competences of a bold expert are built. The working life needs for generic competences in university education are addressed by promoting learning at the interface with working life and taking a broad approach to health and social care. A dialogue between university education and working life is still needed to ensure that the competences of health and social care graduates meet future job needs and encourage new ways of working.

Keywords: generic competences, health and social care, needs of working life, university education