

# Integration of Work Placement Experiences into the Allied Health Curriculum

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Work integrated learning (WIL) or practice experience is part of all allied health (AH) curricula. In AH there is minimal research in understanding learning that occurs during WIL. Maximising the impact of student learning during academic and WIL experiences is possible only when there is good integration of WIL into the curriculum. The paper draws from existing literature on educational worth of integrating work experiences in higher education and learning and curricula theories to determine aspects of AH curriculum integration that need attention prior to WIL, during and after WIL. Our analysis shows that most aspects of AH curriculum (concerned with conceptual and procedural knowledge) are well integrated however there is room for improvement in the development of students' dispositional knowledge (particularly in relation to, preparation of AH students to be agentic or active learners prior, during and after placements). AH curricula, continue to have an irreplaceable *place* in the changing environment of higher education and health professions context because of their implication for student learning and preparation for AH professional practice. The challenge lies in the integration of academic and WIL experiences that occur inside and outside university.