Vocational profile in Health Sciences Students, enrolled in first-year at University

of Malaga (Spain): differences by degree.

Objectives: This study aimed to determine certain characteristics about the vocational

profile of college students, especially if we consider the situation of transition that is

taking place currently in college with the implementation of the European Higher

Education Area (EHEA).

Participants: Students enrolled in first grade of Health Sciences at University of

Malaga (Spain) in Nursing, Physiotherapy, Podiatry and Occupational Therapy. The

population comprised 272 participants (90%), of a 300 total sample of Health Sciences

students with a mean age of 19 years (SD=1.8).

Methodology: It was a descriptive and a cross sectional study. Students were asked to

fill out an on-line questionnaire in May 2011. It was a vocational interests scale

adapted into Spanish by a cross-cultural study. The dimensions were: Leadership,

Organization, Altruism, Creativity, Analysis, Production, Adventure, and Erudition.

The differences between the four groups of students have been checked by Anova.

Results: The vocational profile among Health Sciences students showed significant

differences. By degree, the most altruistic were Physiotherapy students (F=3.022, p=

0.030), being also the most adventurous (F=3.658, p=0.013). The most creative were

Nursing students (F=3.578, p=0.014) and also the most erudite (F=5.527, p=0.001).

Conclusions: These results could be useful in order to study the development of

competences that are necessary for finding a job, work with patients and work as a

member of multidisciplinary group. Also, we are collecting data every day in order to

know the variance with respect the academic year (longitudinal study).

Key words: Health education, vocational interest, EHEA.