

Assessment of Professional Competence of Occupational Hygienists in Higher Education courses



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Post-graduate Occupational Health and Safety programmes developed with industry to meets the needs of the changing workplace.

The Challenge

High failure rates for all students: English-speaking and Non-English speaking.

Courses developed with Industry to enhance the skill base and professional competencies of Occupational Hygienists are delivered in block format with certification assessment conducted by the Peak Professional Body via a 2 hour multiple choice examination.

Key Issues

What are 'Professional Competencies'?
How does the Occupational Hygienist Profession describe these competencies?
What are appropriate assessment strategies for these competencies in a Higher Education setting?



Students in UOW short professional course, Baku, Azerbaijan

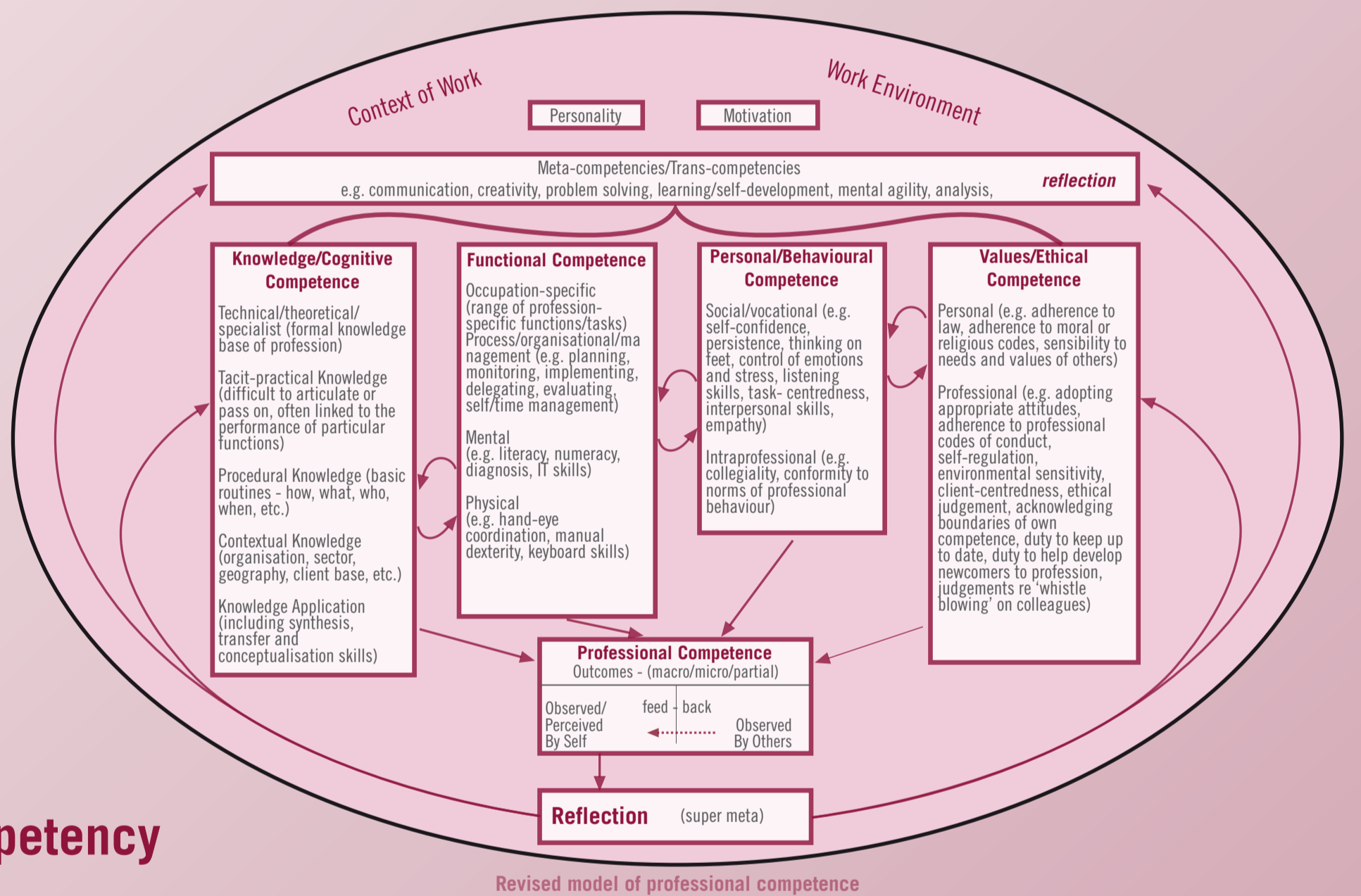
Understanding Professional Competency

The model of Professional Competency developed by Cheetham and Chivers (1998) is used to understand Professional Competency and to develop appropriate assessment strategies:

Professional Competencies for Industrial Hygienists

Professional Competencies for Occupational Hygienists are described by the Australian Occupational Hygienists as 6 key units of Competency:

1. Technical Skills in Hazard and Risk Identification
2. Professional Knowledge
3. Professional Judgement
4. Problem Solving/Critical Thinking
5. Oral Communication
6. Ethics



Where to now?

Map professional competencies to learning outcomes of subjects and across course

Determine appropriate (valid and reliable) assessment strategies for professional competencies

Influence assessment/certification process and purpose internationally via Occupational Hygiene Peak Body by providing feedback re formulating Professional Competencies and provision of models for accreditation and certification using Professional Competencies.