

Speech Therapy in South Africa

Professor Pienaar is the father of Speech Therapy in South Africa. He studied for his doctorate in phoniatory and Voice Science in Hamberg in 1929 where he was introduced to the treatment of voice problems. He became aware of the course in Logopedics recently introduced there.

He returned to Wits as Professor of Phonetics and Linguistics. He opened a speech, voice and hearing clinic in the basement of the library in 1936 to provide clinical practice for students. He introduced a two year Diploma in Logopedics in 1938 in the faculty of arts associated with his department.

The first full-time lecturers in Logopedics came from America with the second being A.B. Clemmons who was in the post in 1943.

Timeline

1936 – Wits Speech Clinic opened. In 1938 a two year diploma is introduced, expanded to a 3 year diploma in 1942.

1941 – Department Education University of Cape Town introduced a one year diploma for teachers of speech defective and hard of hearing pupils. This was discontinued in 1984.

1946 – A four year Bachelor degree introduced.

1969 – Pretoria University introduced a degree course in Faculty of Arts.

1973 – University of Westville introduced a four year degree in the Faculty of Education, this closed temporarily at the end of 1976 and reopened as the Faculty of Health Sciences in 1981.

1974 – Cape Town Medical School introduced a degree course – B.Sc Logopedics.

1984 – Two year diploma for Community Speech introduced.

1987 – Stellenbosch Medical School introduced a four year degree course with the first intake of students in 1988.