

Brief biography

Professor Magnolia Bahle Ngcobo-Sithole matriculated from Montebello High School in 1983. She then trained as a registered nurse and midwife at Edendale College of nursing in Pietermaritzburg. She started working at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital in theatre in 1988 and left after four years to pursue her studies in psychology at the University of Cape Town. After completing her undergraduate and honours degree, she received her Masters' in Clinical Psychology from the University of Port Elizabeth (Now Nelson Mandela University), in 1998.

After the internship, she secured a joint post as a clinical psychologist for the Department of Health in KwaZulu Natal and a lecturer at the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) in the department of behaviour medicine. She worked for the EThekweni Region and rotated between King Edward VIII Hospital, King George V Hospital, RK Khan Hospital and Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital. She was also actively involved in the partnership between the department of health and Air Mercy services by providing psychological services to the hospitals in the rural areas.

When the department of behaviour medicine made the decision to decentralise psychology services, she established the psychology department in Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital. While working as the Head of the Psychology Department she pursued her studies for the PhD Degree. She worked in KwaZulu Natal for thirteen years. In 2012, she obtained her PhD Degree in Behaviour Medicine through the UKZN. She subsequently joined the Department of Health in the Western Cape working as a clinical psychologist for Stikland Psychiatric Hospital and a lecturer at Stellenbosch University in the Department of Psychiatry. She contributed to the teaching of psychology in the medical programme and in the psychiatry postgraduate diploma.

As a clinician she has contributed to the education and training of clinical psychologists for 21 years. She served as a clinical supervisor for 18 years successfully producing a substantial number of young psychologists. She was instrumental in the establishment of the forum of African Psychology that is now a recognised subdivision of PSYSSA. Her nomination and current involvement in the Health Professions Council of South Africa professional board for psychology cemented her experience in the discipline of psychology. She serves on the committee of preliminary enquiry, on the education training and registration committee and on the examinations subcommittees of the HPCSA board for psychology where she informs policy development related to the psychology profession.

In 2018, she joined Nelson Mandela University where she facilitates learning at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels refining and developing new programmes and modules. She contributes to knowledge creation through the mentoring and supervision of Honours, Masters and PhD students' research projects. She has an emerging reputation both nationally and internationally evidenced by invitations to serve as editor, external examiner and has acted as a reviewer to international journals. Currently she plays a leadership role in the department of psychology as the Head of the Department and contributes to Faculty and University committees.