



School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Selection policy for the 2026 student intake

Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences

Department of Nutrition and Dietetics

Department of Optometry

Department of Occupational Therapy

Department of Physiotherapy

GENERAL PREMISES FOR SELECTION

- Applicants from various educational levels may apply for admission to the first year of the following programmes: BSc Dietetics, B Optometry, BSc Physiotherapy, B Occupational Therapy, B Biokinetics and B Sport Coaching (i.e., Grade 12 learners, matriculants, enrolled students, and graduates). Enrolled students in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences should also refer to Rule HRS 1.1 (e) in the applicable Rule Book.
- A holistic approach is important in the selection process, which is based on a points system that includes academic achievement, cultural activities, leadership activities and sport activities (grade 11 for applicants in matric during the application year and/or grade 12 for senior applicants or applicants that already completed their NSC prior to the application year).
- With selection, the constitutional right of universal access to persons from designated groups is applied. Applicants who display the necessary potential and a reasonable ability to attain success in the chosen programme are considered for selection.
- Selection of applicants is done across different categories to achieve a balanced student profile.
- For the B Sport Coaching programme, an effort will be made to accommodate applicants with higher levels of sport participation and/or sport-related certifications.

- Predominantly, South African citizens are selected for studies in Health Sciences to address the healthcare needs of the country due to the high costs involved in the training of healthcare students and the limited availability of healthcare posts for foreign healthcare professionals in the public sector. The consideration of international applicants for selection is applied as follows:
 - For the BSc Physiotherapy, B Occupational Therapy and BSc Dietetics programmes, a maximum of two (2) international students are considered.
 - For the B Biokinetics and B Optometry programmes, a maximum of five (5) international students are considered.
 - For the B Sport Coaching programme, a maximum of ten (10) international students are considered.
- In each programme, two (2) places are reserved until the final selection meeting for top achievers from the Free State, Northern Cape and/or Eastern Cape. These two (2) places will be applicable to Grade 12 learners included in the top 50 achievers of these provinces as annually acknowledged by the specific province's Department of Basic Education and Training with the publication of the final NSC results.
- Additional approved questionnaires and tests may also be used to identify applicants with the necessary potential. If necessary, a panel from within the faculty may conduct interviews with applicants in a further attempt to assess potential and personalities.
- Voluntary visits with a registered professional in the relevant field will be a recommendation for selection.
- The selection numbers are based on the number of students as indicated in the UFS approved enrolment plan.

HEALTH-RELATED REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTION

- *Medical and/or Health requirements*
 - Medical information is collected through the UFS application form. If applicants withhold **any** medical information during the application and selection process, they will be excluded from the programme if identified upon registration or during their study period.
 - Once selected, further medical/health investigations/reports can be requested if any health condition is identified during the study period. If such a condition limits or prevents a student from full participation in the training for their selected profession according to the minimum standards of training as promulgated by

the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) for each profession, such students will be excluded from the programme at any time during the study period.

- *Vaccination requirements*

- The Faculty of Health Sciences and School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences reserve the right to require vaccination against illnesses to protect the students, patients and/or clients before registration of a student in any of the programmes.
- The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences follows the guidelines as contained in the relevant UFS and/or Faculty of Health Science policy documents. These policy documents are available from the Faculty of Health Science's Student Administration offices or on the UFS and/or Faculty of Health Sciences websites.
- Vaccination against **Hepatitis B** is required for selected students in the BSc Physiotherapy, B Occupational Therapy, B Biokinetics, BSc Dietetics and B Optometry programmes. Proof of vaccination must be provided to the different departments before registration. If proof of vaccination is not provided, vaccination will be done during training, as required, and for the student's personal expense.
- Students will be required to adhere to any vaccination requirements stipulated by the National Government.

- *Health status*

- Applicants applying for selection in any of the programmes in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences should be aware that they will be exposed to patients who have infectious diseases, which may affect their general health condition. Students must take precautions to avoid becoming ill, despite any existing or new health conditions or illnesses. All students are expected to meet all rotation requirements of the programme, as required by the HPCSA.

SELECTION PARAMETERS FOR GRADE 12 LEARNERS AND MATRICULANTS

Selection of all applicants is based on the following:

- Admission point (APS)*
- Marks for required school subjects (as stipulated per academic programme) and the Academic point (AP)*
- Selection mark (OSP)*

**Abbreviations as used in the selection process documents*

Admission Mark (APS) is calculated according to the NSC achievement scale. Points will be awarded for compulsory subjects for the specific programme, namely, English (as the language of instruction), Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and/or Life Sciences, as well as the best other school subjects passed up to a total of seven (7) subjects (including Life Orientation). One point is awarded for Life Orientation from an achievement level 5 (60%) or higher when calculating your APS.

The minimum APS required for the BSc Physiotherapy, B Optometry, B Occupational Therapy, and BSc Dietetics programmes is 33. A minimum APS of 30 is required for the B Biokinetics and B Sport Coaching programme.

NSC ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL	UFS ADMISSION POINT
7 (90% - 100%)	8
7 (80% - 89%)	7
6 (70% - 79%)	6
5 (60% - 69%)	5
4 (50% - 59%)	4
3 (40% - 49%)	3
2 (30% - 39%)	2

International and/or home-schooled prospective students (i.e., applicants not participating in the NSC examinations) may be required to provide additional information on their subjects and/or performance. These students will be compared to the NSC/ matric category (provided they have not yet entered or registered at a tertiary institution) using the conversion table published in the annual relevant UFS prospectus as published on the UFS website. Compulsory subjects are the same as for NSC matriculants and must be at an AS or A level.

Academic point (AP) is the *average* of the six best school subjects, excluding Life Orientation and including only recognised school subjects.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME	LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION (ENGLISH)	MATHEMATICS	PHYSICAL SCIENCES	LIFE SCIENCES
BSc Physiotherapy	5 (60%)	4 (50%)	4 (50%)	5 (60%)
B Optometry	5 (60%)	4 (50%)	5 (60%)	5 (60%)
B Biokinetics	5 (60%)	4 (50%)	Physical Sciences 4 (50%) AND/OR Life Sciences 4 (50%)	
B Occupational Therapy	5 (60%)	4 (50%)	Physical Sciences 4 (50%) AND/OR Life Sciences 5 (60%)	
BSc Dietetics	5 (60%)	4 (50%)	Physical Sciences 4 (50%) AND/OR Life Sciences 5 (60%)	
B Sport Coaching*	4 (50%)	Mathematics 3 (40%) OR Mathematical Literacy 6 (70%)	Physical Sciences 3 (40%) AND/OR Life Sciences 3 (40%)	

**Mathematics/Mathematics Literacy, Physical Sciences and/or Life Sciences achievement levels for B Sport Coaching are only recommendations.*

Selection mark (KP) (all programmes excluding *B Sport Coaching*): The maximum number of points to be attained by an applicant is 118 (academic achievements and non-academic achievements in Grades 11 and/or 12). Of these points, 100 are allocated for academic achievements, a maximum of 18 for non-academic achievements (as outlined below).

The non-academic achievements point is based on achievements in the following categories:

- **Culture and/or other extracurricular activities** (0-4) (differentiated between participation at different levels)
- **Sport participation** (0-4) (differentiated between participation at different levels)
- **Geographical indicators** (0-8) (additional points for criteria stated)

- **Alumni and/or current UFS staff members** (0-2) (additional points for criteria stated)

NON-ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT POINTS (CULTURE)	
No participation in any cultural activities	0 points
School level	1 point
Regional level	2 points
Provincial level	3 points
National and/or International level	4 points
NON-ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT POINTS (SPORT PARTICIPATION)	
No participation in any sport activities	0 points
School level	1 point
Regional level	2 points
Provincial level	3 points
National level and/or international level	4 points
NON-ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT POINTS (GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATORS)	
Free State	6 points
Northern Cape	3 points
Eastern Cape	3 points
Rural schools (anywhere in South Africa)	Additional 2 points
NON-ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT POINTS (ALUMNI/UFS STAFF MEMBERS)	
Alumni	1 point
Current UFS staff members	Additional 1 point

Selection mark (KP) (B Sport Coaching): The maximum number of points to be attained by an applicant is 118 (academic achievements and non-academic achievements in Grades 11 and/or 12). Of these points, 100 are allocated for academic achievements and a maximum of 18 for non-academic achievements.

The non-academic achievements point is based on achievements in the following categories:

- **Culture** (0-4) (differentiated between participation at different levels)
- **Sport participation** (0-5) (differentiated between different levels)
- **Sport-related certifications** (0-2) (additional points for any sport-related certifications)
- **Geographical indicators** (0-5) (additional points for criteria stated)
- **Alumni and/or current UFS staff members** (0-2) (additional points for criteria stated)

NON-ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT POINTS (CULTURE)	
No participation in any cultural activities	0 points
School level	1 point
Regional level	2 points
Provincial level	3 points
National and/or International level	4 points
NON-ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT POINTS (SPORT PARTICIPATION)	
No participation in any sport activities	0 points
School level	1 point
Regional level	2 points
Provincial level	3 points
National level	4 points
International level	5 points
NON-ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT POINTS (SPORT-CERTIFICATION)	
No certification	0 points
Entry-level certification	1 point
Higher level certification	2 points
NON-ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT POINTS (GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATORS)	
Free State	3 points
Northern Cape	2 points
Eastern Cape	2 points
Rural schools (anywhere in South Africa)	Additional 2 points
NON-ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT POINTS (ALUMNI/UFS STAFF MEMBERS)	
Alumni	1 point
Current UFS staff members	Additional 1 point

SELECTION PARAMETERS FOR STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

- The Grade 12 marks attained by applicants who have already passed Grade 12 may be considered in addition to their post-school achievements at higher education institutions, in extraordinary cases.
- Limited positions will be available for selection in these categories.

Enrolled/previously enrolled students

For the selection of applicants who are enrolled or were previously enrolled at a tertiary/ higher education institution (irrespective of degree obtained and/or currently enrolled), the following apply:

- An applicant will qualify for selection if he/she obtains a minimum average of 65%

(calculated over all study year(s)) in an accredited degree programme (or 80% in an accredited diploma programme at a University of Technology or other Higher Education Institutions), excluding the B Sport Coaching programme. For the B Sport Coaching programme, a minimum average of 60% (calculated over all study year(s)) in an accredited degree programme (or 75% in an accredited diploma programme at a University of Technology or other Higher Education Institutions) is required.

- An applicant needs to be enrolled for a minimum of 120 credits for the specific academic year to be considered for selection.
- Preference will be given to applicants enrolled in a related study field.
- Applicants who do not disclose current or previous enrolment at a tertiary/ higher education institution will forfeit their application and/or selection status, if identified.

Graduates

Selection of applicants who have already obtained a degree or diploma will take place as follows:

- Preference will be given to applicants who graduated in a related study field with a minimum average of 60% in an accredited degree programme (70% in an accredited diploma programme at a University of Technology or another Higher Education Institution), excluding the B Sport Coaching programme. For the B Sport Coaching programme, a minimum average of 55% (calculated over all study year(s)) in an accredited degree programme (or 70% in an accredited diploma programme at a University of Technology or other Higher Education Institution) is required.
- The degree must have been completed no longer than the allowed minimum period plus one year.
- For applicants with multiple degrees, consideration for selection will be based on the degree most related to the field of study being applied for (if applicable).

IMPORTANT: Final inclusion in any programme in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences is subject to meeting the minimum requirements for the relevant programme (as set out in this policy). If the minimum requirements are not met, selection will automatically be forfeited.

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTORS	
Name	SAHP Selection Policy for 2024 for 2025 intake
Status	For approval
Contact(s)	Faculty Admissions Committee
Cross references	
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