

UNIVERSITY OF THE
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UFS
HEALTH SCIENCES
THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

Policy on Selection of Bachelor of Nursing Students at the University of the Free State

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1. ACRONYMS

Acronym	Meaning
BNursing	Bachelor of Nursing
FoHS	Faculty of Health Sciences
NBT	National Benchmark Test
SANC	South African Nursing Council
SoN	School of Nursing
UFS	University of the Free State

2. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Admission point

A calculated point based on an applicant's level of achievement in the Grade 12 examination and which, among others, enable candidates to gain entry to undergraduate qualification studies.

Applying for admission

The process through which a person's personal and other data are captured on the UFS's database but does not yet bestow the status of UFS student.

Bachelor of Nursing

Structured degree at an NQF level 8 and has 512 credits resulting in a qualification that enables students to request registration at the South African Nursing Council as a professional nurse and midwife.

Selection

A process whereby prospective students are selected for admission to the BNursing programme using a set of criteria.

3. INTRODUCTION

Admission to the Bachelor of Nursing (BNursing) is subject to selection. Applications not meeting the minimum requirements or who missed the closing date for applications will not be considered for selection. Candidates should ensure that they meet the minimum criteria before submitting their applications. Only candidates who indicated Nursing as their **1st choice** in the online application process will be considered.

Any candidate may apply for admission to the first year of the BNursing programme if he/she complies with the minimum requirements stipulated in this document. Prospective BNursing students are subjected to selection due to the high demands of the profession and limited practical learning opportunities.

4. TARGET GROUP

Selection Committee involved in selecting prospective BNursing students.

5. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to serve as a guideline for the equitable and fair selection of prospective BNursing students.

6. PREMISES

- Persons who have completed matric, a degree or diploma, and persons already studying for a degree/diploma may apply.
- Only certified documents are accepted.
- Academic achievement is the critical selection criterion. Per the requirements of the South African Nursing Council (SANC), seventy-five candidates will be selected. Further selection will be considered to reach expected enrolment targets.
- Predominantly South African citizens are selected for study in the undergraduate

programme.

- It is not necessary to write the NBT for selection to the BNursing programme. The UFS has alternative processes to place a student, if needed, into a Critical Academic Literacies developmental module to provide support and enhance success. If the NBT is undertaken prior to selection, the academic literacy section marks will be used to determine the need for literacy and language developmental support.

7. COMPOSITION OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The selection committee for the Bachelor of Nursing programme will consist of the following members:

- Head of School
- Programme director
- One academic staff member of the School of Nursing
- Co-opted members of the Undergraduate Student Administration Office (non-voting members)
- Administrative officer SoN.

8. SELECTION OF STUDENTS

ONLINE APPLICATION SUBMISSION

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide the UFS with a complete application. Applicants must note all the requirements set out in the online application process and ensure that all the necessary supporting documents are uploaded.

Applicants are required to complete a health questionnaire as part of the formal online application process. Applicants may be required to provide a report on their medical conditions, as indicated in the health questionnaire. The selection committee will use these reports to determine whether there are candidates with such disabilities/conditions that would make them unsuitable for nursing.

No incomplete applications will be processed, and separate selections are done for school-leaving and senior applicants.

SELECTION OF GRADE 12 LEARNERS

- Subject combinations and levels of achievement should be certified with an endorsement by Umalusi.
- A minimum achievement level is required and is a compulsory prerequisite.
- A minimum admission point (AP) of 30 is required. -
- The Admission Point (AP) is calculated according to the Table 1.
- The subject Life Orientation with an achievement level of 5 or higher receives only one (1) AP point.

Table 1: Admission Point Scores

Subject	Expected level of achievement
Language of instruction (English)	4 (50%)
Mathematics Or Mathematical Literacy	3 (40%) 6 (70%)
Life Sciences Or Physical Sciences	5 (60%) 4 (50%)

- The marks from other subjects will be used during the selection process if a deadlock is reached.
- Candidates with a higher Science AP score will receive preference.
- Conditional selection, based on the submitted final Grade 11 or June Grade 12 marks is done, but the results published on the senior certificate are used to confirm selection.

SELECTION OF SENIOR STUDENTS (HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION CANDIDATES)

- Limited positions will be available for selection in this category.

- Grade 12 marks will be considered.

SELECTION OF APPLICANTS WITHOUT A COMPLETED DIPLOMA/DEGREE (ANY DEGREE/DIPLOMA NOT YET OBTAINED)

For the selection of candidates who have completed one or more years of a programme that does not fall within the Health Sciences, the following applies:

- A senior student can apply for selection while studying for his/her 1st diploma/degree in the year of study. The applicant will be conditionally selected on his/her Grade 12 and 1st-semester results during selection. However, the applicant must have completed at least one year of a mainstream programme/course for a registered qualification. Therefore, candidates conditionally selected based on their grade 12 and 1st-semester results must submit their final marks for their 1st year completed to receive confirmed selection.
- If applicants who are conditionally selected do not comply with the conditions and/or maintain their academic level at conditional selection, they will forfeit their selection position. The Selection Committee will use the procedures as described in this policy document to select additional applications in their place.
- A candidate will qualify for selection if he/she obtains a minimum average of 65% for the current/completed year of study without reassessing/failing a module(s).
- A candidate must have the minimum credits (full curriculum as set out in the programme rules) required to pass a year of any degree. Preference will be given to students in a related field of study.

SELECTION OF APPLICANTS WITH A COMPLETED DIPLOMA/DEGREE

Selection of candidates who have already obtained a degree/diploma will be as follows:

- Preference will be given to candidates with a qualification in a related field.

- Selection will be based on Grade 12 marks and the academic record for the completed diploma/degree.
- The programme must have been completed within the minimum allowed period.

SELECTION OF A STUDENT WHO WOULD LIKE TO TRANSFER FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSITY

If a nursing student registered at another university wishes to transfer to the University of the Free State, the UFS General Academic Rules and SoN Rules apply. The progress and curriculum content of candidates already studying nursing at another university will determine the year of admission to the UFS's BNursing programme. A written request must be directed to the Head of the School.

SELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- South African students are selected for studies in nursing due to the high cost involved in the training of nursing students. Students from the South African Development Community (SADC) countries receive precedence over other international candidates.
- Candidates must submit proof of a SAQA level 4 qualification and a letter from the Higher Education South African (HESA) Matriculation Board certifying the requirements for a conditional exemption have been met with the application for selection. UFS General Academic rules apply.

9. ADMISSION

UFS General Academic rules and SoN rules apply.

10. CONCLUSION

Immune-suppressed candidates should be aware, prior to accepting selection, that they will be exposed to patients with infectious diseases, which may influence their illness.

In such cases, it will be the student's responsibility to take the necessary precautions to prevent illness due to exposure. All students will be expected to fulfil all the WIL rotation requirements for the programme.

At its discretion, the faculty reserves the right to require immunisation against diseases from time to time prior to admitting students to any further academic year or semester during their studies. BNursing programme students are immunised for Hepatitis B during the first weeks of classes and the cost is charged to the student tuition fee (Signed consent form).

Students are responsible for an annual contribution to the Faculty transport fund to do work-integrated learning (WIL). Indemnity is required. Transport, indemnity, uniform and Hepatitis B immunisation are for the student's tuition account.

Candidates will be informed via text message and/or email of the selection outcome. Applicants who were selected may forfeit their selection if information becomes available and not disclosed during the selection process. The UFS reserves the right to withdraw an offer should the processed academic results be erroneous or fraudulent.