



School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Selection policy for the 2024 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 qualifications (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, the National Benchmark Test (NBT) (where applicable), cultural activities, leadership activities and sport activities.
- All applicants (except senior students and B Sport Coaching applicants) in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences must write the NBT, as the NBT results are considered during selection. For the *B Sport Coaching* programme, the NBT results will not be considered during selection.
- 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, and due to the high costs involved in the training of healthcare students, and 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 can also be used to identify applicants with the necessary potential. If necessary, a panel from within the faculty can 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 numbers provided in the table below serve as a guideline for selection to achieve the final student numbers as indicated in the UFS enrolment plan. If a programme has more repeaters than 10% of the enrolment target, the number of students to be selected might be reconsidered.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME	NUMBER OF STUDENTS TO BE SELECTED	UFS ENROLMENT TARGET
BSc Dietetics	35	25
B Optometry	50	40
B Biokinetics	50	40
B Occupational Therapy	50	40
BSc Physiotherapy	50	40
B Sport Coaching	35	25

HEALTH-RELATED REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTION

- *Medical and/or Health requirements*
 - Applicants are required to submit a medical report, as completed by a medical practitioner, as well as a self-completed health questionnaire, as part of their applications. An applicant may be requested to submit an additional full medical report.
 - Once selected, these medical/health reports can be sent to the various departments to ensure that the health condition of students does not withhold them from 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.

- *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's 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 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.

- Full vaccination against **COVID-19** is highly recommended for all programmes in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, as regulated by the UFS COVID-19 vaccination policy.
 - Students will be required to adhere to any vaccination requirements as stipulated by National Government.
- *HIV status*
 - Applicants applying for selection in any of the programmes in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, should note that if his/her HIV status is positive, he/she should be aware before he/she takes up his/her selected position, that he/she will be exposed to patients with infectious diseases, which could have an influence on his/her physical condition or status. In such cases, he/she will then be responsible for taking precautionary measures so that he/she does not become ill due to his/her positive status and exposure. It will be expected of all students 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)*
- Sciences mark (WP)*
- NBT results (where applicable)
- Selection mark (OSP)*

**Abbreviations as used in the selection process documents*

Admission Mark (APS) is calculated according to the compulsory subjects for the specific academic programme, e.g. language of instruction (English), Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and/or Life Sciences, as well as Life Orientation and the best two (2) other school subjects passed to a total of 7 subjects.

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

Academic point (AP) is the average of the best **six** 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%)	

*It is a prerequisite for selection to Occupational Therapy that applicants must give proof of a visit with a registered occupational therapist with the purpose of gaining knowledge about the profession.

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

Science Mark (WP) is calculated by the average of Mathematics, Physical Sciences and/or Life Sciences.

National Benchmark Test (NBT) completion is compulsory for all new first-entering applicants (i.e., grade 12 learners), but will not be considered during the selection process for the B Sport Coaching programme. Seniors (i.e., enrolled/ previously enrolled students and graduates) are exempted from writing the NBT.

The NBT results are valid for three years. Applicants are allowed to write the NBT annually with a maximum of two (2) attempts per calendar year before or on the first Saturday of July of that year. The second NBT test must be written in full (i.e., writing all sections of the NBT) and all marks be resubmitted together with a motivation. Only the latest set of NBT results of each year will be accepted.

The NBT results will be considered during selection and will contribute a total of 20% of the selection mark. A minimum mark of 60% be obtained in the language of instruction (English). If the average mark is not obtained, applicants must enrol for the compulsory language module. A minimum of 50% be obtained for each of the other individual components of the NBT (i.e., excluding English). Only under special exceptional circumstances will applicants be considered for selection if they failed only one component of the NBT (**excluding** the language component), with a mark on no lower than 40%. In such cases the overall average NBT mark (**excluding** the language component) should still be equal to or more than 50%.

Selection mark (KP) (all programmes excluding *B Sport Coaching*): The maximum points to be attained by an applicant is 118 (academic achievements and non-academic achievements in Grade 11 and 12). Of these points, 100 are allocated for academic achievements and a maximum of 8 for non-academic achievements, a maximum of 8 for region of origin and 2 points for children of university staff or alumni.

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 points to be attained by an applicant is 118 (academic achievements and non-academic achievements in Grade 11 and 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 have completed one or more years of an academic programme at a 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).
- An applicant needs to be enrolled for the minimum credits for the specific academic year (as included in the applicable rule book) and complete this full academic year successfully to be considered for selection.
- Preference will be given to applicants enrolled in a related study field.

Graduates

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

- Preference will be given to applicants with appropriate subjects 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).
- The degree must have been completed in 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).

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