

REFLECT, REVIEW, PROCEED: INTENTIONAL ABOUT MY ACADEMICS!

AUGUST 2023 EDITION



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for 2034

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AND LEARNING (CTL)



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Graduate Attribute Development

What to look forward to in Semester Two

By: Kate Poen

With the second semester registration out of the way, there is still some important information you need to take into consideration before commencing with the full academic programme:

- The last date to cancel modules with a full refund? 15 August 2023
- Applications for the 2024 intake close: 30 September 2023
- Please ensure that you are familiar with the University Rules and Regulations:



UFS General
Rules



UFS Faculty
Rules



Financial
Rules

Once you have familiarised yourself with the University Rules and Regulations, reflect on how you performed in semester one. Make sure that you are also aware of the number of weeks in the academic calendar that you must attend classes, and tutorials, and submit assessments before engaging in your Main end-of-year examinations.

This is important because, in creating an effective study schedule, weekly and/or monthly planning and setting your goals for the semester, considering the number of academic weeks is important.

Should you require assistance with creating an effective study schedule, managing your time, and setting your goals for the semester, reach out to a Central Academic Advisor and email

advising@ufs.ac.za (BFN), advisingqq@ufs.ac.za (QQ) and advisingsc@ufs.ac.za (South)

The Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) wants to help you navigate through university successfully to #SecureTheGrad. You can receive academic advice and support to assist with your studies by connecting with a success coach at GPS@ufs.ac.za

All the best with the second semester!





STUDENT SUCCESS PORTAL

A wide array of resources, all in one place – Skills online, anytime, anywhere!



The student success portal is a collaborative Blackboard site that allows you to find valuable resources to support the development of crucial skills for your academic success, employability, computer competency and more! You can also connect with staff to help you succeed via the contact details for various student support services. This portal is just what you need as it not only offers you skills development but supports you to be a well-rounded UFS student.

"Every skill you acquire doubles your odds of success." Scott Adams

Reflection of First semester

By: Zandile Rakhudu



Heya Kovsie! A new semester, a new chapter of your academic journey.

As we start the semester, it is important that we look back and reflect on what the semester brought and how we responded to it. To those who feel that the last semester did not exactly go the way they were hoping it would, do not fret, help is near! However, let's reflect on the first semester. Literature tells us that engaging in reflective practice can enable you to develop the capacity to keep an eye on yourself and to engage in critical dialogue with yourself in all you think and do (Brockbank and McGill, 2007). So, looking at your first semester and how you performed, whether good or bad, you can identify habits, routines and activities that may need to change, that may need to be done differently or may even need to be engaged with more.

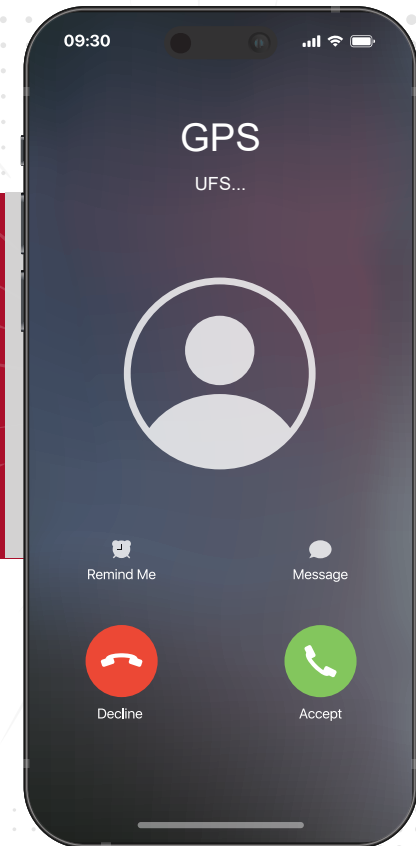
The aim of this article is to encourage you to be intentional with how you want to end the year by asking a few questions: are you looking to have the same results as you did in first semester, or would you like to do better and excel in your academics? Those are important questions to answer as you reflect on the first semester. "Consciously engaging in reflective practice enables [you] to learn from and therefore potentially enhance your practice and learning" (Brockbank and McGill, 2007: p.87). Your practice in this context would be how you apply yourself in your academics, how you study, class attendance, and using the library for its intended purpose. Remember, help is only an email and phone call away. Make use of the resources and support services that have been given to you.

So then, use this new semester to start a new chapter of your academic journey and finish the year strong!



Please answer – success is calling.

A GPS coach will call you to ask how you are doing. We want you to complete the academic year successfully.



Pick up the **call** or **WhatsApp** us back when you are ready to talk.

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Career Advice: Why the fuss?

By: Monique Schoeman

As you reflect on semester one, you might wonder if you are still on track or whether you are on the *right* track. When you think about why you are studying in the first place, it often relates to having a better future through obtaining employment (either at a business or creating your own). You might think that your current degree will lead to a specific job/career. However, there is no linear link between your degree and a specific career, making it crucial to reimagine how your degree provides various skills and knowledge to use in various careers.

This is where career advice comes in. Career advice is assistance to help you plan and align your academic degree/majors with careers and track your progress towards your identified career goals. The central academic advisors at CTL are your partners who can help you identify where you want to go (i.t.o. your career) and help you plan your academic choices to best reach your goals. These advisors are there to help you plan your future, identify opportunities to develop the necessary additional skills and experience and track your progress.



In a work world full of turmoil and change, your central academic advisors are there to help you navigate not only your academics through effective success strategies, but also to motivate you and help you keep your eye on the future career prize. Regularly check in with your central academic advisor by emailing advising@ufs.ac.za (BFN) or advisingqq@ufs.ac.za (QwaQwa) and stay on track to success.

Second Semester Initiatives:

Month	Events
August	10 – #SecureTheGrad: Empowering the Future: UFS Alumni Women & Careers Webinar 25 – Sunset Talk Dialogue 1 (Health & wellness)
September	1 – Spring Day Celebration 7 – Careers webinar 15 – Sunset Talk Dialogue 2 28 – SecureTheGrad Funding Webinar
October	12 – Against All Odds Webinar (Final Webinar) 20 – Study session 27 – Closing Event (Dinner)

T: +27 51 401 9111 (option 2) | E: securethegrad@ufs.ac.za | www.ufs.ac.za

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Developing graduates who are globally competitive

By: Lauren Oosthuizen and Alexandro Daniëls

Being a graduate in a globally competitive, and often saturated, market can be daunting for anyone. At the UFS, we aim to support students to compete in the workforce by helping them develop graduate attributes. Graduate attributes are the key competencies and skills that employers are looking for.

These are the 9 UFS Graduate Attributes:



If you have not yet heard about it, we have a module for final year and postgraduate students to reflect on their development of the 9 UFS Graduate Attributes. This module is EDED3712 in the first semester and is repeated as EDED3722 in the second semester.

It is not compulsory, and any final year undergraduate or postgraduate student can register for this module as an additional module. In 2022 and 2023, it is also offered FREE for registered UFS students. In addition to teaching students how to take stock of their development of their graduate attributes, EDED also teaches students how to market themselves in the online environment through LinkedIn and populating their own website, how to apply for work, and how to plan their future careers.

Focus group and module evaluation data highlights how appreciative EDED students are after gaining knowledge and skills that enhance their employability. These responses echo how students value the support that comes with being able to evaluate and improve their skillset before stepping into the world of work. Students further emphasise how engaging with the LinkedIn platform during EDED classes has resulted in successful networking with future employers as well as job offers, while others express how gaining experience customising a CV to the job advert has broadened their understanding of how to market themselves as the best candidate for a position. Overall, it is the intentional and scaffolded nature in which the module is presented that allows students to reflect on their experiences and development of graduate attributes and capitalise on opportunities in and outside the workplace. Although registration for EDED in 2023 has closed, students can look forward to registering for this module in 2024.

