

**KOVSIES  
ADVICE**

2024 | 1st Edition

# Advice from the **Block**

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*Inspiring excellence, transforming lives  
through quality, impact, and care.*

VISION **130**  
*Renew and Reimagine  
for 2034*

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



**UFS**  
CENTRE FOR TEACHING  
AND LEARNING (CTL)



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# Transitioning Students Into University



Lauren Oosthuizen: Head of TDS



Hello First-Years, and welcome to the University of the Free State. Are you excited to start this amazing new chapter in your academic journey? As you transition into university, it is normal to be feeling overwhelmed, nervous and anxious about this new change, and it could be a while before you feel at home at the University.

At the University of the Free State, we make it a priority to assist you as you transition into university. At the Centre for Teaching and Learning, the Transition, Development and Success (TD) division assists students who transition from high school into the university and students transferring from other tertiary institutions, in a module called UFSS1504/UFSS1522. Students who are transitioning into the workplace are also assisted to do so through a module called EDED3712/EDED3722.



## What can you expect from UFSS1504/UFSS1522?

In the first semester, the aim of UFSS1504 is to support you in the transition from high school to university by teaching you the academic skills you need to be successful in your studies. These academic skills are taught in the first semester, in a high-impact, condensed, 3-day summer school. You will be equipped with the academic success skills needed to thrive and be successful in your first few months on campus. The academic success skills include topics like digital skills, time management and goal setting, study skills, referencing and plagiarism, financial literacy and how to develop a growth mindset.

In the second semester, the aim of UFSS1504/UFSS1522 is to teach you about how to make the most of your undergraduate experience to prepare for the world of work. These employability skills are taught in a high-impact, condensed, 3-day winter school.

Studying at university is very different from the way you approached your studies at school. At university, you are expected to become a life-long learner, engaging in guided and self-directed learning.

These resources and support exist to help you become successful in your studies. If you have any questions, email us at [ufs101@ufs.ac.za](mailto:ufs101@ufs.ac.za) if you are on the Bloemfontein or South Campus, and [ufs101qq@ufs.ac.za](mailto:ufs101qq@ufs.ac.za) if you are on the QwaQwa Campus.

## What can you expect from EDED3712/EDED3722?

EDED3712/3722 is positioned as a capstone module for final-year and postgraduate students, and aligns with career development and employability initiatives at the UFS. The aim of this module is to enhance your employability by teaching you to take stock of the skills and attributes you have acquired during your studies, and to articulate that in ePortfolios that will assist you in marketing your skills, networking, and applying for work. This module is offered in the first semester in a 2-day summer school, and repeated in the second semester in a 2-day winter school (so you do not need to register for both module codes). In 2024, this module is offered for FREE to students! We have space for 3000 students to register as an additional module, so do not waste this opportunity! If you have any questions, email us at: [eded@ufs.ac.za](mailto:eded@ufs.ac.za)

# Get Connected, Find Support

By Ninette Aucamp and Katleho Mbalo



The UFS is committed to helping you reach academic success. Don't get lost! Make sure you connect to UFS support services:

## Student Success Portal

Resources for success at your fingertips! The Student Success portal is a portal hosted on Blackboard that provides students with resources on the following:

- Study Skills
- Time Management
- Computer Skills
- Communication Skills
- Teamwork
- Academic Writing
- Critical Thinking and Problem-solving
- Leadership Skills
- Stress Management Skills
- Information Literacy Skills



## A\_STEP Tutorials

The Academic Student Tutorial and Excellence Programme (A\_STEP) is tasked with providing academic support to UFS students. To find out if there are A\_STEP tutorials available for your modules, email us at: [astep@ufs.ac.za](mailto:astep@ufs.ac.za)

## EduTechBuddy

This programme provides support to students during the first term towards achieving the effective use of Blackboard in their teaching and learning. You can find us at the Computer Labs.

## CUADS

The Centre for Universal Access and Disability Support (CUADS) provides support services to persons with disabilities. For more information, email us at: [cuads@ufs.ac.za](mailto:cuads@ufs.ac.za) or phone 051 401 9631.

## Write Site

Struggling with academic writing and constructing assignments? For more information, email us at: [writesite@ufs.ac.za](mailto:writesite@ufs.ac.za)

## Student Counselling and Development

Students of the UFS can make use of free counselling services to ensure overall wellbeing. For more information, check out: [Student Counselling and Development Home \(ufs.ac.za\)](#)

## Food Environment Office

This office aims to promote a healthy food environment, and to inform and empower students to take action regarding their food and nutrition decisions. This is done through the *No Student Hungry Programme*, *Community Gardens*, and

the *Food Parcel Programme*. Visit our office at the Steve Biko Building, Ground Floor, and Kovsie Lane, opposite Kovsie Health. You can also email us at: [Visagiea@ufs.ac.za](mailto:Visagiea@ufs.ac.za)

## UFS Peer Mentor Programme

The Peer Mentorship Program is designed to help first-year students transition into higher education by providing social and emotional support. Contact us at: [Peermentor@ufs.ac.za](mailto:Peermentor@ufs.ac.za)

## Central Academic Advising Learning Communities

Learning communities include group advising support initiatives and activities that facilitate the interaction between students, peer advisors and faculty advisors. To join these communities, WhatsApp us on: 087 240 6370.



## CENTRAL ACADEMIC ADVISING LEARNING COMMUNITIES



### BENEFITS OF BECOMING A MEMBER:

The **Central Academic Advising Learning Communities (CAALC)** is a project under the Central Advising Office (CTL), that is aimed at offering holistic support to foster the interaction between students, curriculum advisors, and student support offices. The core focus is on academic strategies and wellness habits, access to resources in a safe and supportive learning space and establishing a sense of belonging to the UFS.

- Connect with relevant campus personnel and resources
- Develop academic success strategies
- Assume responsibility for multiple dimensions of self-care (with an understanding relationship between well-being and academic performance)
- Develop a social network, support system, and build institutional belonging.



To become a member, click here or scan QR Code for sign-up

[www.ufs.ac.za](http://www.ufs.ac.za)

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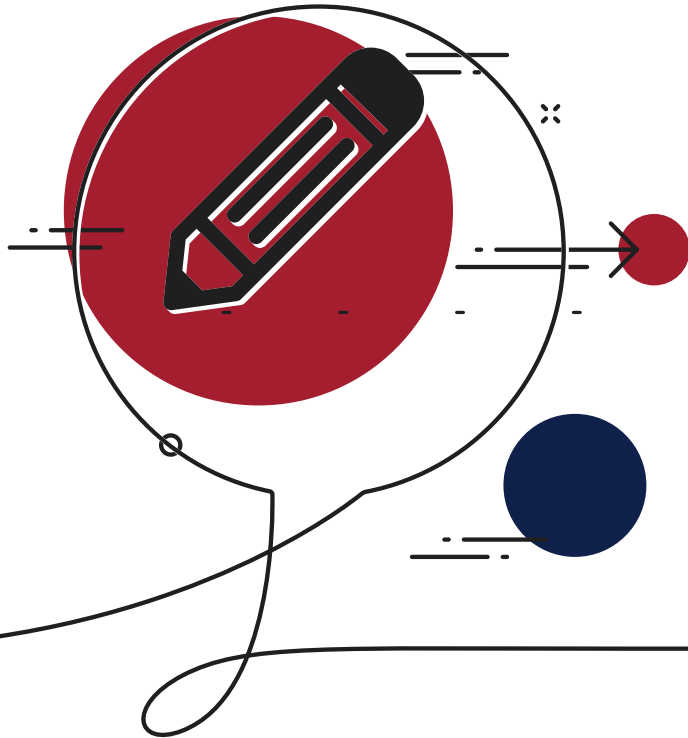
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# A word from a fellow senior student



My name is Thembile Mngomezulu, and I was born and bred in Rockville Makwane (Qwaqwa), in the Free State. I am 24 years old and currently studying Bachelor of Education Honours with specialisation in Management and Governance at Qwaqwa Campus. To date, I am forever grateful for all the people and the immutable values that form the bedrock of our institution. Being a student at this university brought many adjustments and developed me into an inclusive leader who contributes to our university's mission and objectives. I never would have thought that one day I would be this extraordinary individual with so much happiness and fulfilment, including overall growth and achievements in my life. For instance, I went from being an average student to a top performer. Honestly, I would be lying if I said I knew that one day I would be Student of the Year (1st Runner Up) on all three campuses and complete my degree *cum laude*.

In my experience, I believe the reason I managed to succeed at UFS is because of discipline, sticking to my schedule, and setting achievable short- and long-term goals. All of these things pushed me to stay ahead, be responsible, and learn to manage my time. Moreover, being a diligent student who strives

to integrate both an understanding of a bigger picture goal as well as attention to details on our campus and community motivated me to do well. It made me pride myself in volunteer work and extracurricular activities around campus. As a result, I became flexible, had the drive to learn more, accept challenges and deepen my knowledge in any activity to disseminate best practices.

Furthermore, I became an ambassador/influencer of at least 10 support services or organisations around campus, some of which I utilised the services to succeed. To name a few, Golden Key (for academic motivation), Student Counselling and Development (mental health and career development programmes), No Student Hungry (food packages), Centre for Teaching and Learning (academic advising), and SecureTheGrad (academic insights and assistance).

On the whole, I say being a student at University of the Free State is an experience to be explored as one is able to go above and beyond the call of duty to succeed in many ways. It needs one to be optimistic, be able to choose healthy relations, and strive for the best!



# #STG

## #Secure that GRAD!

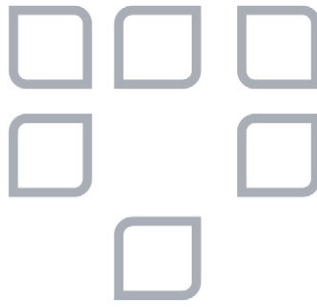
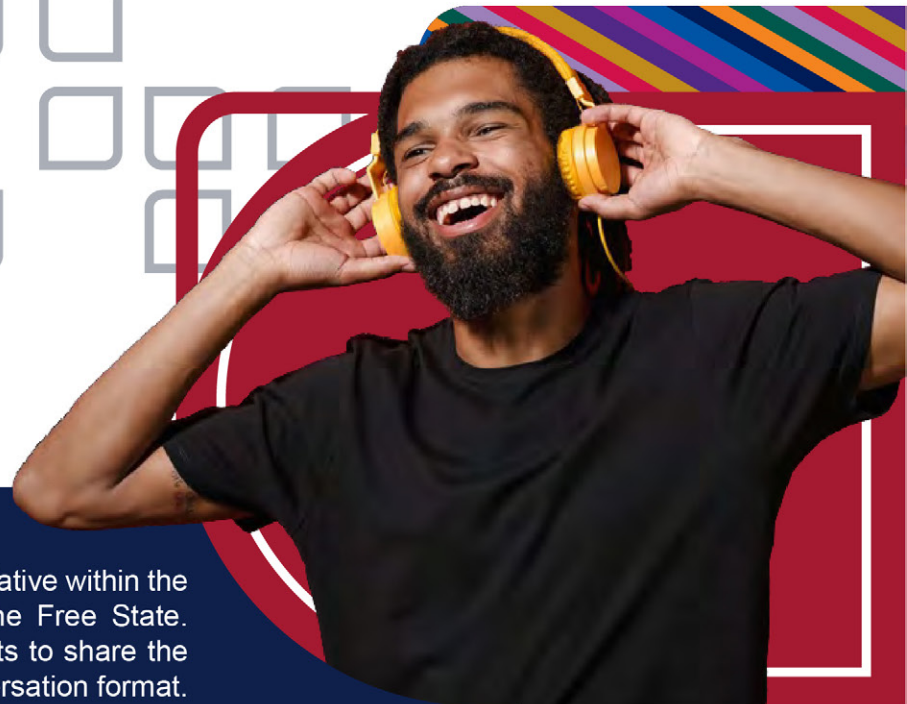
Who we are & how we assist you!

#SecureTheGrad is a Senior Experience and Student Success Initiative within the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at the University of the Free State. Furthermore, #SecureTheGrad invites thought leaders and experts to share the value of their services/journeys with senior students in a live conversation format. The webinars aim to provide students with an opportunity to virtually network with the campus community and key partners to enable students to plan their professional development, establish realistic expectations aligned with those of the institution, and foster a sense of possibility in graduating and embracing the future.

### The themes of the webinars are:

- Senior orientation (academic advising and appeals)
- Finance
- Academic support
- Career & wellness

For more information, keep an eye on our Instagram page for more information or send us an email: [securethegrad@ufs.ac.za](mailto:securethegrad@ufs.ac.za)



# 2024 FTEN WELCOMING AND ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

BLOEMFONTEIN CAMPUS		
Date/Month	Activity	Venue
<b>1st Quarter</b>		
01 – 03 March 2024 (TBC)	Gateway Sports Tournament	Campus Sporting Facilities (Please refer to the poster for details)
01 March 2024	FTEN Production	South Campus
02 March 2024	Gateway Welcoming Concert	RAG Farm
8-9 March 2024	FTEN Production	Qwa Qwa Campus
13-16 March	FTEN Production	Bloemfontein Campus
08 – 12 April 2024	Break	
<b>2nd Quarter</b>		
15 April 2024	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Classes Commence	Please refer to the class timetable
22 -30 April 2024	First-year Stage Production (with Dr Jerry wa Makgetha)	TBC
13 – 17 May 2024	Exam Prep Series	Online (Gateway Blackboard Organisation)
11 May 2024	Gateway Fun Walk/Run and Aerobics	TBC



13 – 17 May 2024	Focus group interviews	Face-to-face
24 May 2024	Predicate Day	Please refer to the Faculty schedule
27 May – 15 June 2024	Main Mid-year examination	Please refer to the examination timetable
17 June – 05 July 2024	Break	
<b>3rd Quarter</b>		
08 July 2024	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Classes Commence	Please refer to the class timetable
08 – 13 July 2024	Supplementary Mid-year examination	Please refer to the examination timetable
August/September 2024	Gateway Crew Applications	Online
23 – 30 September 2024	Break	
<b>4th Quarter</b>		
02 September 2024	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Classes Commence	Please refer to the class timetable
07 September 2024	Gateway Spring Fun Day	TBC
14 – 18 October	Exam Prep Series	Online (Gateway Blackboard Organisation)
18 October 2024	Predicate Day	Please refer to the Faculty schedule
21 October – 9 November 2024	Main End-of-year examination	Please refer to the examination timetable
01 December 2024	Launch 2025 FYO Website	TBC
15 December 2024	Campus Closes	

## SOUTH CAMPUS

Date/Month	Activity	Venue
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter		
08 – 10 March 2024 (TBC)	Gateway Sports Tournament	South Campus Sporting Facilities (Please refer to the poster for details)
02 March 2024	Gateway Welcoming Concert	RAG Farm
08 – 12 April 2024	Break	
2nd Quarter		
15 April 2024	2nd Quarter Classes Commence	Please refer to the class timetable
22 – 30 April 2024	First-year Stage Production (with Dr Jerry wa Makgetha)	TBC
13 – 17 May 2024	Exam Prep Series	Online (Gateway Blackboard Organisation)
10 May 2024	Gateway Fun Walk/Run and Aerobics	TBC
13 – 17 May 2024	Focus group interviews	Face-to-face
24 May 2024	Predicate Day	Please refer to the Faculty schedule
27 May – 15 June 2024	Main Mid-year examination	Please refer to the examination timetable
17 June – 05 July 2024	Break	

3rd Quarter		
08 July 2024	3rd Quarter Classes Commence	Please refer to the class timetable
08 – 13 July 2024	Supplementary Mid-year examination	Please refer to the examination timetable
August/September 2024	Gateway Crew Applications	Online
23 – 30 September 2024	Break	
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter		
02 September 2024	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Classes Commence	Please refer to the class timetable
06 September 2024	Gateway Spring Fun Day	TBC
14 – 18 October	Exam Prep Series	Online (Gateway Blackboard Organisation)
18 October 2024	Predicate Day	Please refer to the Faculty schedule
21 October – 9 November 2024	Main End-of-year examination	Please refer to the examination timetable
01 December 2024	Launch 2025 FYO Website	TBC
15 December 2024	Campus Closes	



## QWAQWA CAMPUS

Date/Month	Activity	Venue
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b>		
08 – 10 March 2024 (TBC)	Gateway Sports Tournament	Qwaqwa Campus Sporting Facilities (Please refer to the poster for details)
08 – 12 April 2024	Break	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>		
<b>15 April 2024</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Classes Commence</b>	Please refer to the class timetable
22 -30 April 2024	First-year Stage Production (with Dr Jerry wa Makgetha)	TBC
13 – 17 May 2024	Exam Prep Series	Online (Gateway Blackboard Organisation)
18 May 2024	Gateway Fun Walk/Run and Aerobics	TBC
13 – 17 May 2024	Focus group interviews	Face-to-face
24 May 2024	Predicate Day	Please refer to the Faculty schedule
27 May – 15 June 2024	Main Mid-year examination	Please refer to the examination timetable
17 June – 05 July 2024	Break	

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

<b>08 July 2024</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Classes Commence</b>	Please refer to the class timetable
08 – 13 July 2024	Supplementary Mid-year examination	Please refer to the examination timetable
August/September 2024	Gateway Crew Applications	Online
23 – 30 September 2024	Break	

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

02 September 2024	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Classes Commence	Please refer to the class timetable
13 September 2024	Gateway Spring Fun Day	TBC
14 – 18 October	Exam Prep Series	Online (Gateway Blackboard Organisation)
18 October 2024	Predicate Day	Please refer to the Faculty schedule
21 October – 9 November 2024	Main End-of-year examination	Please refer to the examination timetable
01 December 2024	Launch 2025 FYO Website	TBC
15 December 2024	Campus Closes	

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