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UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VUNIVESITHI VA FREISTATA



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C O N T E N T

Hello Senior – Second Semester Ready!

You have reached the halfway mark for 2021 academic year and are well on your way to academic success! It is important that you get geared up and ready, as this third quarter is packed with classes, content, assessments, and assignments. Make sure you are not caught off guard, here are easy steps to help you succeed:

1. Know your modules

The first step is to go through the Blackboard pages of each of your modules, and make sure that you know what is expected of you. Reflect on the following questions:

- How will the classes be presented?
- How is the content of this module structured?
- When will the assessments take place and how?
- Where do I allocate the learning outcomes?
- What materials do I need to get organized for this module?
- What platforms will be used for communication in this module (Blackboard/WhatsApp groups/email/Class announcements)?

2. Plan your study time

Now, it is time to structure your week and study time. Make sure you know how much study time you need to set apart each week, and how to develop a study routine for yourself. When setting up a study timetable, include your classes, tutorials, and revision time for each module. We have developed an online workshop that can assist you with the process: <u>Click here</u>.

3. Get support

Make sure you know where you can find academic, social, and emotional support. <u>Click here</u> to visit the UFS support services page.

4. Be Proactive

Of course, the more you advance in your academic career, the more challenging course content will become, and the deeper you would need to engage with, and understand content. Therefore, it is important that you adapt your study strategies to being proactive. Here are some tips that might help you take a proactive approach in your studies:

- Make sure you download course materials, and save them in a folder on a secure device, so that you have everything available during teaching interactions.
- Develop study methods that help you study smart and save you valuable time. <u>Click here</u> to learn more.
- Prepare well in advance for assessments. Set up an assessment schedule which indicates when you need to submit what. <u>Click here</u> for templates of schedules and calendars.
- Plan your revision. <u>Click here</u> to learn more.
- Stay abreast with communication. Check your ufs4life mailbox at least once a day. Join your Faculty Facebook page, as well as the <u>UFS Academic Advising</u> Facebook page to ensure that you are informed of what is offered to support you in your studies, as well as important announcements.

5. Join UFS #SecureTheGrad

Make sure you join the UFS #SecureTheGrad live sessions! Email <u>GPS@ufs.ac.za</u> to find out more, or visit the Senior Experience tab on the <u>Student Success Portal</u>. Dates to look out for this semester:

29 July	Academic re-routing: Getting back to securing the grad		
19 August	Mental health is wealth		
26 August	Funding your grad: Bursaries, study loans, earn to learn (student jobs, entrepreneurship)		
9,16,23 and 30 September	#SecureThe Grad masterclasses: Guests for the sessions will be professionals in various industries and will occur every week of September. The masterclasses will focus on personal branding, the power to create a vision, networking, and personal finance.		
28 October and 4 November	To close off #SecureThe Grad for the year, we will be closing with an "against all odds" webinar. The invited speakers will talk about how they managed to #SecureTheGrad despite their challenges during their studies, the balance of being a pro-active student and academic success, and lastly, getting a perspective from an academic leader.		

WANT TO SECURE THE GRAD?

This is how

GPS@UFS CONTACT CENTRE

Student Support Services we offer:

GPS@UFS

CONTACT

CENTRE

has trained agents on call waiting to assist you

GPS@UFS CONTACT CENTRE

Dial 051 401 2444 for assistance or send a whatsapp to 087 240 6370

Having Airtime issues? Leave a missed call and one of our AGENTS will call you back. Working hours: 08:00 – 17:00 (Weekdays)

T: +27 51 401 2444 | E: GPS@ufs.ac.za | www.ufs.ac.za f UFSUV | 💆 UFSweb | 🔠 UFSweb | 🙆 ufsuv

ACADEMIC

ADVISING





TUTORIAL SUPPORT

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Hello First Year, and, we are back!

As the second semester pace begins to take up, our hope is that you would have taken time out to reflect on the semester that was. A lot happened academically and nationally; yet YOU managed to get through it all in one piece, and if that isn't **GRIT**, I don't know what is!

But now, it's time to kick the second half of 2021 into high gear and obtain what you set out to achieve.

As you could see, transitioning into university was an experience no one could have truly prepared you for. The first semester required some form of planning and organization to keep up with academic affairs, so too does the second semester if you want to ensure success.

The transition from first to second semester has its own attributes so, if the first half of your academic year didn't go as planned, heads up: The second semester is short, there isn't even enough time for us to explain the importance of solidifying a plan of action to ensure you get what you want out of this semester.

Having said that, make sure you have a fixed understanding of your goal, the willingness to involve people (support structures) and the focus needed to keep your vision alive. No one can predict what 2021 still has in store for us, all you can do is make sure that your structure is ready for anything at any time.

Below are a few building blocks to start you off with planning for a successful semester:

- 1. Make sure you are registered for the correct modules for the second semester, if you are not registered for the correct modules contact your faculty advisors for curriculum specific advising and assistance with registration. Check your <u>faculty rulebook</u> for all the degree and module details.
- 2. Check that all your modules appear on Blackboard, if not contact <u>ehelpdesk@ufs.ac.za</u> for assistance
- 3. Attend all your orientation lectures (or listen to the recordings) for logistics around how the module will be presented and what material will be utilized.
- 4. Check announcements on Blackboard (and your <u>ufs4life mailbox</u>) daily, sign up for tutorial sessions and ATTEND them religiously!
- 5. Draw up a schedule you can use to tackle and keep up with your academics for the semester, if you need assistance with this contact advising@ufs.ac.za (BFN) and advisingqq@ufs.ac.za (QQ)
- 6. **NB!!** If there is something you don't understand, ask. Be patient in the response time but don't be afraid to ask until you understand.
 - And lastly: Unfriend and uninstall Procrastination IMMEDIATELY! The sooner you do what needs to be done, the better you'll feel about what else is to come.

All the best! The Central Advising Team (CTL)



Write**Site**

The Centre for Teaching and Learning offers online Write Site support to assist students with their academic writing needs. Our one-on-one consultation services are available online (via Blackboard Collaborate), assisting students with the academic writing requirements of written assignments and tasks.

The consultants at Write Site are trained to identify students' individual writing needs and work with them to become better writers, as well as to produce improved academic writing assignments.

The services at the Write Site are free of charge, and students are encouraged to visit us as often as possible for assistance with their writing tasks throughout their studies at the UFS.

Students on the Bloemfontein Campus are encouraged to make a booking via <u>writesite@ufs.ac.za</u> or visit the BFN Blackboard organisation for more information. For the Qwaqwa Campus, students can email <u>writesiteQQ@.ac.za</u> or visit the Qwaqwa Blackboard organisation for more information.

T: +27 51 401 2324/7355 | writesite@ufs.ac.za | www.ufs.ac.za\ctl

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



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Reflection: Looking back and forward for success

An important part of your growth is reflecting on your previous success and sometimes failures. Reflection will help you to gain perspective about your situation, learn from the past, and focus on the things that you can do differently.

Use the table below to reflect on your journey as a student:

	Question	Your Reflection
1.	Are you satisfied with your grades for the 1st semester?	
2.	What study strategies worked?	
3.	What did not work?	
4.	How did you manage your time?	
5.	What were your distractions?	
6.	How can you manage your distractions?	
7.	What went well?	
8.	What could you have done differently?	
9.	What actions or support do you need to this semester?	

1st Semester Didn't Go as Planned?

So, your semester did not go as planned. Don't take it personally, just because one semester or module did not go so well does not mean you are a failure. The importance is that you stand up, dust yourself off, show yourself some compassion for how far you have come and the many obstacles that you have already overcome, but most importantly - learn from it.

Not performing as expected in your academics could be overwhelming and you might feel that it is difficult to continue with your studies. This article looks at ways of dealing with the feelings of academic disappointment by reflecting on your situation and creating a plan of action for the 2nd semester and going forward.

Failed modules in the first semester?

Failing a module could feel like a huge setback, especially if you worked hard all semester. It is important to understand that there are many reasons why this can happen. Maybe the subject matter was too complex. Maybe you had too much going on in your personal life. If you're a new student, you may have been facing the challenges of adjusting to tertiary study. Whichever is the case for you, rest assured that you can get back on track to finish your degree. Below you will find five (5) practical steps that will help you deal with failed modules:

STEP 1: Ask for feedback from your Lecturer / Tutor

To learn from the situation and approach it differently, ask your lecturer for feedback on your performance. This is helpful to identify where exactly things went wrong and where you need to focus on going forward.

STEP 2: Think about your options

Failing modules does not mean that you completely failed your degree. Research and identify your options. Knowing which options are available to you is reassuring and could help calm you down.

Check your UFS General Rulebook as well as Faculty specific rulebook (elaborated more in the following article). The rulebook outlines the compilation of a curriculum and progression rules.

STEP 3: Consider the Implications

Academically, you may not be able to proceed in your course or complete your qualification without passing all your modules. Consider your options and how you will address this. If you experience uncertainty or anxiety with regards to your options, get in touch with an academic advisor (general or faculty specific) for clarity.

STEP 4: Explore Support Services

The UFS has various support services in place to support you in your journey to graduation. Depending on your needs the UFS has the following support services available to improve your skills and bring up your grades.

Academic: A_STEP; <u>Write Site</u>; Academic Advice on success strategies (goal setting; time management; note taking skills and more).

Emotional: Student Counselling and Development; Wellbeing Warriors

STEP 5: Plan your next steps

Once you looked at the causes, consequences, and implications, it's time to think about your next steps. Discuss your options with an academic advisor (general / faculty specific). To book an appointment with the CTL advising team email advising@ufs.ac.za (BFN). or advisingqq@ufs.ac.za (QQ).

Note: Students will not be allowed to register more than twice for the same module, except with the permission of the Dean and subject to recommendation by the head of the department. Please consult your faculty advisor before you make any changes to your registration.

Key Terms

Failing a Module: To pass a module, a student must have a combined mark (that is, the module mark combined with the examination mark) of at least 50%, and the mark in the examination must be at least 40%. This mark is the Final Mark.

Dropping a Module: Dropping a module is a deliberate decision to discontinue the module due to various reasons, including falling behind on a module to a point of no return and planning to complete it in the following year; changing modules; or accidentally registering for the wrong module(s).

Planning: Get geared for the second semester

The table below provides an outline of aspects to consider when planning for the second semester along with links to the resources available to you.

Question	lf No	If Yes
1. Do you need clarity on the University rules regard- ing your degree?	 Proceed to the next question. 	 Familiarise yourself with the <u>UFS general rulebook</u> and your <u>faculty rulebook.</u> (See article below). Contact your academic advisor (general / faculty specific).
2. Do you need emotional Support?	 Proceed to the next question 	 UFS Student counselling and development offers professional, free counselling services to students. <u>Click here</u> for more information or to book an appointment. Download the student counselling toolkit <u>here</u>. For #Wellbeing Warriors resources and publications <u>click here</u>.

3. Do you need assistance with your assignments and academic writing?	 Proceed to the next question 	 The Write Site provides academic writing assistance by trained professionals across faculties to meet students' subject-specific writing needs. <u>Click here</u> for more information on the Write Site and how to make a booking. 	
4. Do you need a tutor?	 Proceed to the next question 	 A_Step provides student tutorials led by senior students across all 7 faculties of the Bloemfontein campus as well as the 4 faculties on QwaQwa campus. <u>Click here</u> for more information and specific faculty tutor contact details. 	
5. Do you need a fresh perspec- tive going into the second semester and the online world?	- Proceed to next step	 If you prepare yourself, and make sure that you maintain healthy student habits, you will be able to master your academics, and still come out on top this semester. We have developed a course for you to understand and apply the 10 Habits of highly effective students in the current environment. Seize the moment! <u>Click here</u> to access the 10 Habits of Successful Online Students course. 	
6. Do you need help with time management? - Proceed to the next question -		 Studying from home has many challenges. We have created a course for you on successful time management, including calculating your time, creating a study schedule, and dealing with procrastination and distractions. <u>Click here</u> to access the Successful time management for remote learning course. 	

7. Do you need healthy sleep habits?	- Proceed to next question	 A healthy student life starts with effective sleep habits. We have created a course for you on how you can ensure that you get enough sleep to be the best version of you. <u>Click here</u> to access the healthy sleeping habits for online learning course.
guidance on note-taking strategies?questionread. We have created way to creative note-ta your studying, and help efficiently.		 read. We have created a course for you to find your way to creative note-taking strategies that will boost your studying, and help you revise work effectively and efficiently. <u>Click here</u> to access the note-taking strategies that work

Career Services Office

If you have been wondering how you can develop skills and competencies you will need to be ready to enter the workspace once you have secured your qualification, do not fear the Career Services office has the solution for you.

Whether you are a first year or a senior student, the work-readiness programmes for self-paced studies created by the Career Services office are available for you on Blackboard > My organizations > Career Services = the programmes are open to all registered UFS students.



In order to inform you about future career possibilities and opportunities, some faculties have already had their career virtual fairs that are still open to view until December 2021:

Faculty of Law	https://www.ufs.ac.za/supportservices/ LawCareerFair21
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences	https://www.ufs.ac.za/supportservices/ NasCareerFair21
Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences	https://www.ufs.ac.za/supportservices/ EMSCareerFair21

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



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Getting Acquainted with the General RULES

It is important that you know where to find the General Rules of the UFS and familiarise yourself with it. This article provides a brief overview of important information you should be aware of regarding UFS rules.

What is a Rulebook?

A rulebook is defined as the regulations or standards of behaviour that should be followed in a particular institution or organisation. It is your 'go to guide' on your journey to graduation. The UFS has both a general rulebook which applies to all students, as well as faculty specific rulebooks.

Upon registering, a student undertakes to abide by the General and Faculty Rules. Please note that it is a student's responsibility to acquaint themselves with both the General Rules and the Faculty's Rules relevant to their degree.

Key Terms

General Rulebook: The general rulebook applies to all students and clearly sets out the rules pertaining to undergraduate qualifications (Bachelor's degrees) and postgraduate qualifications (post-graduate diploma's; Honours, Master's, and Doctoral degrees). To access the UFS 2021 General Rulebook <u>click here.</u>

Faculty Rules: Faculty rules relate specifically to the programmes offered by the specific faculty. Each faculty has their own rulebook which outlines the faculty specific admission requirements, modules necessary for qualification, the sequencing of modules and faculty specific progression rules.

To access your Faculty Rulebook, <u>click here.</u>

Noteworthy Rules

The section below provides a summary of important general rules to be aware of:

RULE	DID YOU KNOW?			
A3: Admission and Readmission - P. 36	 A3.10 Progression Rules for Undergraduate (Bachelor's) Qualifications: With due allowance for the module requirements, students are required to attain the following minimum achievements in each study programme, for which the prescribed module combinations for each academic year have been stipulated in the curriculum. Unless a faculty determines a higher requirement for progression, which is published in the faculty's rule book, these progression rules will apply. Students who fall short of the required number of credits required for each year of study (except for the first year), are subject to exclusion from studying at the UFS. 			
	Minimum Credits to Pass	3-Year Qualification	4-Year and 4-Year extended Qualifications	
	End of 1st Year	48 Credits	48 Credits	
	End of 2nd Year 112 Credits 112 Credi		112 Credits	
	End of 3rd Year	224 Credits	192 Credits	
	End of 4th Year	228 Credits	320 Credits	
	End of 5th Year Completed 384 Credits		384 Credits	
	End of 6th Year Completed Complete			

A5: Duration of Study and Compiling a Curriculum - p. 42	 A student may only register at the UFS for the minimum period allowed to complete a qualification + 2 years (n+2). A student should compile a curriculum within this period in accordance with: Module venue and timetable Examination table Prescribed sequence and composition modules as required for the specific year of study. Deviation from prescribed modules (additional modules / exemption of modules) are only allowed with approval of the faculty dean and subject to meeting the requirements on page. 42 of the General Rulebook. Note: Each faculty has specially appointed staff who provide academic advice in respect of Faculty specific rules (e.g., in the case of curriculum planning).
A6: Student Registration and Re-registration - p. 43	 A6.1 Registration Students register for both semesters at the beginning of each year. Although you still need to enrol for your second semester modules in the second semester registration period. Late registrations are subjected to approval of the Faculty Dean and subjected to a fee. Conditional registrations due to financial or academic conditions are subjected to the approval of the registrar. Note that financial rules apply. As such your account for the previous year of study should be settled in full.
	 A6.3 Cancellation of Registration of Modules Notification of the cancellation of a registration must be processed through the self-service component of the PeopleSoft Campus Solutions System or be given in writing. Specific cancellation dates apply with: Cancelation for 1st semester modules: 31 March 2021 Cancelation of 2nd semester and year modules: 15 August 2021 Cancelation of modules after the due date could imply: A student may not be granted readmission of a module The student may still be charged for the module

 A6.4 Cancelation of Registration at UFS (academic exclusion) A student may be subject to academic exclusion if they do not meet the prescribed rules and regulations. This is done in the best interest of the student and only after: 			
	 o The relevant dean has informed the student of the intention to academically exclude the student along with reasons why; o After the student has been given an opportunity to address the situation. 		
A7: Switching Qualifications / Modules - p. 47	 A student in their first year of study may apply for a different programme in the following year before the closing date and if the student meets the minimum admission requirements. When doing so, the first year of study still counts towards the n+2 maximum period allowed for students to complete their studies. Modules completed in the 1st year of registration can be recognised towards the different qualification. See General rule A8 for information on credit accumulation and transfers. 		
Other Noteworthy Rules	A8: Credit accumulation and transfer (p.48) A9: Assessment Rules (p.50) A10: Qualification with Distinction (p. 58)		

Note:

- Faculty Specific Rules: General rules are supplemented by faculty specific rules. Please ensure that you are familiar with the applicable rules of your faculty.
- General Rules may change from year to year.

HELP Starts Here

Call the UFS Student Mental Health Careline at 0800 00 6363 or text 4330224/7 | FREE | CONFIDENTIAL for all registered UFS students.

Your mental health matters and taking care of your mental health is like brushing teeth – you need to do it daily.

The UFS Student Mental Health Careline is exclusively available to all UFS students. A mental health professional is awaiting your call and the Careline is available 24/7, at no cost, and all calls are confidential.

Don't wait - invest in your mental health today!

T: +27 51 401 2853 | +27 58 718 5032 | +27 51 505 1298 | scd@ufs.ac.za | scdqq@ufs.ac.za | scdsouth@ufs.ac.za | www.ufs.ac.za \kovsiecounselling

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CV Tips for Post Graduate Students

In my role as Graduate Recruitment Manager for PwC I spent a large proportion of my time reviewing CV's and interviewing students for bursaries, vacation employment and training contracts. Having seen many good and bad CV's, I hope these tips will help you to ensure that yours is one of the better and more memorable ones when you apply for opportunities.

- 1. The layout of your CV should be streamlined, neat and well structured. Don't clutter your CV with pretty patterns and pictures choose a simple and easy-to-read font and font size (such as Calibri, Arial, Cambria or Helvetica 12-point is a good size to go for) and use headings, sub-headings and bullet points to separate relevant information. Limit the use of colour to not more than two colours and stick with black or white for your text, depending on your background colour.
- 2. Be prepared to adjust your CV for the purpose for which you are using it although you won't need to make many changes, think about the information that is going to be most pertinent to the position for which you are applying and adapt how you present the information accordingly. For example, ensure that your skills, attributes, and experience are appropriately highlighted to connect with the requirements of your target position.
- **3. Keep the information brief,** to the point and avoid using cliché's like, "passionate team player" or "proven track record in…". If you can get your CV to fit on one page, so much the better! Although not essential, if you choose to include a photograph on your CV, ensure that you use a small, professional-looking head and shoulder photograph. Whether or not you include a photograph is a matter of preference.
- 4. This seems like an obvious one, but sadly it is a point that is often overlooked **check, double-check and triple-check the spelling and grammar on your CV!** Spelling errors, poor grammar and typo's in your CV give the impression of sloppiness and lack of attention to detail and it is so easy to get this right! If you are not a whizz at English, ask someone who is to read through your CV and ensure that you do a spell-check.

- 5. Remember, the objective of your CV is to get an interview not a job so keep it short and simple. (I always try to picture the recruiter wading through a huge pile of CV's yours needs to be attractive, professional and to-the-point). Once you are selected for an interview, you will be on a level playing field with other applicants and it is there that you will have to explain beyond your qualification and how you have gone about developing your competencies, skills, and attributes.
- 6. Use the resources available to you to put together the best possible CV. If you have created a LinkedIn profile (which is strongly recommended given that 84% of employers who completed SAGEA's 2020 Employer Benchmarking Insights are using LinkedIn to target graduates) you can easily create a CV from your LinkedIn profile. Websites such as https://standout-cv.com/ and standout-cv.com/ and standout-cv.com/ and standout-cv.com/ and https://standout-cv.com/ and https://standout-cv.com/ and <a href="https://standout-



Camilla was employed for 13 years by PwC as their National Recruitment Manager. She left PwC at the end of 2008 to pursue a quieter life in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Midlands and has, since then, worked for SAGEA as a Project Manager. In this role she has researched and written numerous articles on topics that are of relevance to graduate recruitment, employment and talent development. She has also put together and run a SAGEA training course on "The Fundamentals of Graduate Recruitment" for hundreds of Employers. Camilla has been instrumental in working with Employers to improve their talent attraction, selection and development strategies.

Camilla juggles her time between her two daughters and working on SAGEA projects. She enjoys walks and cycling among the green hills of the Midlands and spins regularly to keep fit.

Faculty Support:

Faculty of	Email (BFN)	Email (QQ)
Economic and Management Sciences	EMSAdvice@ufs.ac.za	<u>emsqqc@ufs.ac.za</u>
Education	eduinfo@ufs.ac.za	EDUQQ@ufs.ac.za
The Humanities	humanities@ufs.ac.za	AdviceHumQQ@ufs.ac.za
Natural and Agricultural Sciences	nasadvising@ufs.ac.za	<u>nasadvising@ufs.ac.za</u>
Law	LAWadvising@ufs.ac.za	
Theology and Religion	theology@ufs.ac.za	
Health Sciences	StudentAdminFHS@ufs.ac.za	





Dear fellow Kovsie...

Do you know how to budget for food, where and what to buy, how to store it, and how to prepare it to save money and ensure that your overall diet supports your health and wellbeing?

To find all the answers you are looking for to live and eat healthier visit the Eat & Succeed portal. There you will find videos, podcasts, recipes and much more.

Follow the instructions below to easily access the portal

Do you know that you really are what you eat - even to be

Do you know how your diet today affects your long term



successful at university?

health, even decades from now?

Scan the QR codeto log into Blackboard



For students, by students.

www.ufs.ac.za

From the menu on the left, select Eat & Succeed to access the useful resources and information

Or follow these easy steps: Step 1: Log into Blackboard Step 2: Choose "Student Success Portal" Step 3: Choose "Menu" on the left-hand side Step 4: Choose "Eat & Succeed"





