

# Undergraduate Faculty Brochure

2025



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

## Faculty of Veterinary Science

Fakulteit Veeartsenykunde  
Lefapha la Disaense tša Bongakadiruiwa

The closing date for programmes  
in this Faculty is **31 May**.

**Make today matter**

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

## Message from the Dean

As the only Faculty of Veterinary Science in the country, we play a singular role in the training of veterinarians and veterinary nurses, who are indispensable for the country's farming and animal welfare needs. We are also the leading Faculty of Veterinary Science in Africa and enjoy wide international recognition.

**Prof Vinny Naidoo**  
**Dean: Faculty of Veterinary Science**



In 2020 the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Pretoria celebrated 100 years of veterinary education in South Africa. For the last few years, our faculty has been ranked in the top 60 globally as a provider of veterinary science education. Despite our international recognition, the faculty strives to be locally relevant, and we are passionate in our endeavours to meet the needs of our country.

This not only applies to commercial farming but also to primary animal healthcare, where veterinarians and veterinary nurses assist rural communities and smallholder farmers. By controlling animal diseases and promoting livestock production, veterinarians contribute to increasing the profitability of commercial and small-scale farming enterprises, thereby enhancing food security and economic development of livestock owners.

Our graduates and research programmes are vital for enhancing public and animal health, promoting biosecurity and welfare, and ensuring that our pets are safe and sound. The quality of its training is such that graduates from this Faculty have no difficulty competing for and entering postgraduate programmes at universities in countries around the world. The Faculty also offers numerous postgraduate qualifications, with our graduates having a major impact on disease control.

The faculty, situated on a separate campus that compares favourably with the best in the world hosts five academic departments, three research centres and the state-of-the-art Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH), through which we offer the majority of our training. The faculty is also in a unique position to provide clinical training in our surrounding communities and the Hluhukani Clinic near the Orpen Gate of the Kruger National Park. Services provided here include production animal medicine, herd health, state veterinary medicine, wildlife medicine, community medicine and welfare practice.

Our faculty promotes an excellent study environment and boasts some of the best pass rates in the country. However, it is also a vibrant place where a wide variety of social, cultural and sports activities on and off campus is offered. During your studies, you will be empowered to develop into a balanced individual which will enable you to start an exciting career as a veterinary professional.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Onderstepoort Campus of the University of Pretoria.

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# General overview



## Acronyms

ACE	Accelerated Christian Education
APS	Admission Point Score
AVBC	Australasian Veterinary Boards Council
CCS	Compulsory Community Service
DALRRD	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
GED	General Education Development Test
IEB	Independent Examination Board
NCV	National Certificate Vocational
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
NSC	National Senior Certificate
OVAH	Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital
RCVS	Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAVC	South African Veterinary Council
SANDEF	South African National Defence Force
SAPS	South African Police Service
SOT	School of Tomorrow
TOEFL	Test of English as Foreign Language
UMAS	University Module Achievement Score
USAf	Universities South Africa
VCN	Veterinary Council of Namibia
VNVAf	Veterinary Nursing Value-added Form
VSVAF	Veterinary Science Value-added Form

## General overview of the Faculty of Veterinary Science

The Faculty has the following departments, divisions and centres:

### Academic departments:

- Department of Anatomy and Physiology
- Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases
- Department of Paraclinical Sciences
- Department of Production Animal Studies
- Department of Companion Animal Clinical Studies

### Faculty administration

- General administration
- Finances
- Human resources
- Marketing, communication and fundraising

### Student administration

- Provides full logistical support to academic departments, students and staff for all undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes.
- Provides student and academic administration support services in collaboration with similar service providers on the Hatfield Campus of the University.

### Centres

- Equine Research Centre (ERC)
- Centre for Veterinary Wildlife Research (CVWR)
- University of Pretoria Biomedical Research Centre (UPBRC)

### Teaching and Learning support services

- Onderstepoort Teaching Animal Unit (OTAU)
- Onderstepoort Skills Laboratory

### Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH)

- A state-of-the-art facility for year-round clinical and referral services
- Satellite community clinics
- Experiential work-integrated training of students

### Student support services

- Student Health Services (on-site nurse and doctor's appointments)
- Student Counselling Unit (on-site psychologist appointments)
- Faculty Student Advisor (on-site appointments for assistance with time management, study methods, stress management, financial assistance, tutor support, etc)
- The Disability Unit (situated on the Hatfield Campus)

**The Faculty of Veterinary Science is based on the Onderstepoort Campus.**

**Google map**  
**GPS coordinates**

<http://goo.gl/gwjD09>  
S 25° 38' 52" E 28° 10' 54"  
(22 km from Hatfield Campus)

# Undergraduate programmes

## General admission regulations that apply to all prospective students

1. The admission requirements and general information provided in this Faculty brochure are applicable to students who apply for admission to the University of Pretoria with a National Senior Certificate (NSC) or an Independent Examination Board (IEB) qualification.
2. The following persons will be considered for admission to a first bachelor's degree at the University of Pretoria:
  - Candidates who have a certificate that is deemed by the University to be equivalent to the required National Senior Certificate (NSC) with bachelor's degree endorsement;
  - Candidates who are graduates from another tertiary institution or have been granted the status of a graduate of such an institution; and
  - Candidates who are graduates of another faculty at the University of Pretoria.
3. Grade 11 results are used for the conditional admission of prospective students, but final admission will depend on the NSC (or equivalent) qualification and results.
4. Candidates must also comply with the specific subject and achievement level requirements and the minimum Admission Point Score (APS) for their chosen degree programmes.
5. The APS calculation is done by using the NSC 1 to 7 scale of achievement. It is based on a candidate's achievement in six recognised 20-credit subjects. The highest APS that can be achieved is 42. Life Orientation is a 10-credit subject and is excluded from the calculation when determining the APS. The following subject rating scores are used for calculating the APS for NSC/IEB:

### Admission Point Score (APS) Conversion

Rating code	Rating	Marks %
7	Outstanding achievement	80–100%
6	Meritorious achievement	70–79%
5	Substantial achievement	60–69%
4	Adequate achievement	50–59%
3	Moderate achievement	40–49%
2	Elementary achievement	30–39%
1	Not achieved	0–29%

NSC – National Senior Certificate (completed Grade 12 in or after 2008)

IEB – Independent Examination Board

6. Except in cases where modules or programmes require the use of a language other than English, all modules will be presented in English, which is the University's official language of tuition, communication and correspondence.
7. Minimum requirements for admission to the relevant programmes are set out in the minimum admission requirements table in this brochure.
8. Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into a programme.
9. Applicants with qualifications other than NSC and IEB should refer to the following publications:
  - The *International undergraduate prospectus 2025: Applicants with a school leaving certificate not issued by Umalusi\** (South Africa), available at [www.up.ac.za/programmes](http://www.up.ac.za/programmes) > Undergraduate > Admission information.
  - The *Newcomer's Guide 2024 of the International Cooperation Division*, available at [www.up.ac.za/programmes](http://www.up.ac.za/programmes) > Undergraduate > Admission information.
10. **School of Tomorrow (SOT) and Accelerated Christian Education (ACE):** The University of Pretoria no longer accepts qualifications awarded by these institutions.
11. **General Education Development (GED):** South African GED graduates who graduated up to 2019 may be considered for admission, provided they qualify for an exemption certificate issued by USAf and comply with both University admission and Faculty subject requirements. South African GED graduates who graduated after 2019 cannot be considered for admission to UP as the diploma is not accredited by USAf and will not be considered for exemption. Applicants from the USA who completed the GED may apply for a Foreign Conditional Exemption Certificate issued by USAf and accompanied by their SAT/TOEFL/IELTS results.
12. **National Certificate (Vocational) (NCV) Level 4:** The University of Pretoria may consider NCV candidates, provided they meet the exemption for bachelor's status criteria and the programme requirements.



\* **Umalusi** accredits South African private providers of education and training as well as private assessment bodies to offer tuition and/or assessment for qualification(s) on the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework (GFETQSF). Contact Umalusi at [info@umalusi.org.za](mailto:info@umalusi.org.za) or +27 (0)12 349 1510.

**Note:** Refer to the General Academic Regulations and Student Rules at [www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/home](http://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/home), click on 'General Rules and Regulations'.

### APPLICATION AND CLOSING DATES:

- Applications open on 1 April. All study programmes at the University of Pretoria are number-limited. You are encouraged to submit your application as soon as possible after 1 April.
- The closing date for applications for study programmes in the Faculty of Veterinary Science is 31 May.

## Undergraduate programmes

### Faculty-specific admission regulations

1. As the only faculty of its kind in the RSA, the Faculty of Veterinary Science (FVS) has a particular responsibility to ensure that the student body is representative of the demographics of the country in order to meet the national needs for trained veterinarians and veterinary nurses.
2. If the number of applicants who meet the minimum requirements for a particular category is insufficient, the Faculty Selection Committee of the FVS may, at its discretion, assign places to another category.
3. The final number of places offered to applicants will be determined by the Faculty Selection Committee with due consideration of the available teaching facilities and resources.
4. Applicants may be requested to participate in additional selection activities, such as interviews and additional selection tests, which may be used to verify the scores obtained from the Veterinary Science or Veterinary Nursing Value-added Form (VSVAF/VNVAf) (Annexure E).
5. Selection in each of the categories (see Annexure C and D) is based on merit.
6. Applicants are ranked in categories based on the Merit Point Score achieved (see Annexure C and D – Calculation of the Merit Point Score).
7. Since the highest-ranking applicants are selected until capacity is reached in each category (see Annexure C and D), the selection cut-off values in the different categories are determined by the competing applications.
8. Applicants who are admitted or conditionally selected, and those on the waiting list, will be informed by 31 August. However, those in the second-round selection for school-leaving applicants (Category A2), will be informed a week after the final Grade 12 results are available.
9. School-leaving applicants who are conditionally selected based on their Grade 11 results will forfeit their places if their final NSC (or equivalent qualification) results no longer comply with the minimum requirements for selection, or if their Merit Point Scores based on their final NSC (or equivalent qualification) results are more than 5% lower than their Grade 11 scores on the strength of which they were selected.
10. School-leaving applicants who were conditionally selected based on their Grade 11 results, but whose results in the final NSC (or equivalent qualification) caused them to forfeit their placement, will automatically be transferred to the waiting list and may be considered if a second round of selection takes place in January (Category A2).
11. Forfeiture will not be reversed based on amended NSC (or equivalent qualification) results after the remarking of NSC (or equivalent qualification) examination papers.
12. Applicants enrolled in the BSc extended programmes must complete the first three semesters of the BSc extended programme with the correct (equivalent) modules to be eligible for selection into the Bachelor of Veterinary Science or Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme.
13. Applicants who are conditionally selected into the second year of the Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme based on previous university exposure will forfeit their placement if they do not pass all the modules required for entry into the second year of the programme.
14. All conditionally selected applicants' admission will be confirmed by 31 January of the year in which their studies will commence.
15. Places that become available in any category after selection due to cancellation or forfeiture will be offered to candidates on the waiting list for that specific category until the end of the University's orientation week. Places must be taken up by the end of the first week after the commencement of lectures.
16. In terms of the Immigration Act, foreigners who are permanent residents in South Africa are not categorised as foreign applicants.
17. In extraordinary circumstances, and based on the availability of places in a given year, the Faculty Selection Committee may consider transferring a student from another veterinary programme. The level of entry will be decided at the discretion of the Committee and in accordance with the general rule applied by the Faculty. Transfers to Bachelor of Veterinary Science V and VI will not be considered. The syllabus of the transfer programme must meet the OIE and SAQA requirements for a veterinary programme. The Faculty reserves the right to undertake an evaluation of syllabi or to request a certificate of SAQA equivalence. Candidates also have to meet the Category B1–B6 or C2–C3 entrance requirements.
18. Candidates who have previously applied and failed to enter the Bachelor of Veterinary Science or Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme will be considered in Categories B1–B6 or C2–C3.
19. Applicants from countries other than South Africa\* must comply with all UP and the Department of Home Affairs regulations applicable to foreign students.
20. Applicants who have multiple citizenships, including South African citizenship, will be considered to be South African citizens.
21. Applicants with GED and School of Tomorrow qualifications will not be considered for admission.
22. Any deliberate omission of information, or any false information provided by an applicant in the application, may result in the immediate cancellation of the application, admission or registration.

\*Applicants who are not South African citizens

**University of Pretoria website** [www.veterinary.up.ac.za](http://www.veterinary.up.ac.za)  
**Enquiries** [leonie.johnson@up.ac.za](mailto:leonie.johnson@up.ac.za)

### Minimum admission requirements

- The closing date for applications for programmes in this faculty is 31 May.
- Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into a programme.

### University of Pretoria programme qualification verification

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.



# Undergraduate programmes

Programmes	Minimum requirements for NSC/IEB for 2025			
	Achievement level			APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	
<b>Bachelor of Veterinary Science</b> [6 years]	5	5	5	35
Proposed second choice programmes for Bachelor of Veterinary Science are Bachelor of Science <i>Zoology</i> and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Animal Science. These programmes are also recommended for applicants who intend to apply again for a transfer to the Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme in 2025 or later. Note: Students who intend to apply for admission to Bachelor of Veterinary Science may register for Bachelor of Science <i>Zoology</i> or Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Animal Science modules, including Medical Terminology (MTL 180).				
<b>Careers:</b> Veterinarians in private practice, research, academia or state veterinary services. Veterinarians can also work in the following fields: diagnostic laboratories, veterinary public health (milk and meat hygiene, control of transfer of disease), technical services, research and product development in pharmaceutical and food industries, consultancy, laboratory animal management, wildlife management, poultry and pig production and animal welfare. Further details appear on page 5.				
<b>Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing</b> [3 years]	4	4	Physical Sciences or Life Sciences 4	28
For advice on a second-choice programme for Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing, please consult a Student Advisor. To make an appointment, send an email to carol.bosch@up.ac.za.				
<b>Careers:</b> The following institutions employ veterinary nurses: veterinary clinics and veterinary hospitals, specialist veterinary facilities, the pharmaceutical industry, the animal food industry, animal welfare societies, zoological gardens, game parks, laboratory animal units, rehabilitation centres, research centres, animal boarding establishments, organised agriculture, dairies and farming operations. Further details appear on page 8.				

For applicants in other schooling systems (IGCSE/LGCSE/BGCSE/SGCSE/GCSE/HIGCSE/NSC/O Level/AS Level/A Level/IBSL/IBHL or ABITUR), refer to Annexure A for the conversion of scores to the NSC equivalent. Applicants from schooling systems in which Physical Sciences is taught as two separate subjects (Physics and Chemistry) have to achieve the equivalent minimum level in both subjects. For more information, refer to the brochure: Undergraduate Programme Information 2025: Qualifications other than the National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Independent Examination Board (IEB) at [www.up.ac.za/programmes](http://www.up.ac.za/programmes) > Undergraduate > Admission information.

Applicants from countries other than South Africa must comply with all UP and the Department of Home Affairs regulations related to foreign students. If an applicant has multiple citizenships which includes South African citizenship, the applicant will be considered as a South African applicant. Applicants with GED and School of Tomorrow qualifications will not be considered for admission. Any false information or any deliberate omission of information, provided by an applicant in the application may result in immediate cancellation of the application, admission or registration.

## The Merit Point Score

The Merit Point Score (see Annexure C and D) is calculated as follows:

- For school leavers the NSC/IEB Grade 11 scores (or equivalent) are used to determine conditional admission:
  - Mathematics contributes 30% for Bachelor of Veterinary Science and 40% for Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing,
  - English contributes 20% for Bachelor of Veterinary Science and 40% for Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing,
  - Physical Sciences in the case of Bachelor of Veterinary Science only contributes 30%; and
  - the Veterinary Value-added Form contributes 20%.
- For applicants with university exposure, the following are used to determine the Merit Point Score:
  - UMAS contributes 80% (See Annexure B); and
  - the VSVA/VNVA contributes 20% (See Annexures E and F).

## The Veterinary Science Value-added Form (VSVA) and the Veterinary Nursing Value-added Form (VNVA)

The VSVA/VNVA is used in the Faculty of Veterinary Science to ensure that the applicant makes an informed decision about a career choice. These forms will indicate prior exposure to veterinary science and veterinary nursing as professions, and the Faculty will allocate a score based on the prospective student's veterinary profile.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the online VSVA/VNVA is completed by the relevant deadline and that all related documents are uploaded.

The components are:

- Applicants should provide evidence of their **balanced lifestyle that will promote and sustain personal wellness** (leadership positions, participation in sports, culture and adventure activities, etc).
- Animal experience:** Applicants should reflect on their experience with aspects, including animals being killed for humane purposes, animals being slaughtered (Veterinary Science only) or animals giving birth. There is a section in the online VSVA/VNVA where these reflections must be typed in.
- Career shadowing:** Applicants should provide evidence of career shadowing of practising professionals (veterinarians in the case of Bachelor of Veterinary Science applicants and veterinary nurses in the case of Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing applicants). Applicants should attempt to get exposure to as wide a range as possible of practice areas within the relevant profession. This includes career shadowing of a professional in the relevant profession in government (Veterinary Science only) and in private practice (production animals, equines, wildlife and small animals).
- Note:** Applicants may be requested to participate in additional selection activities to verify the score obtained from the VSVA/VNVA. This may include an interview and/or additional selection tests. More on the VSVA/VNVA in Annexure E and F in this brochure.

### Why you should complete the Veterinary Science Value-added Form (VSVA) or the Veterinary Nursing Value-added Form (VNVA)

- Completion of the VSVA/VNVA will help you to make an informed decision about the profession as a suitable career choice for you.
- The score achieved for the VSVA/VNVA can improve an applicant's chances for selection.
- The VSVA/VNVA will help to prepare you for your studies by providing you with prior learning opportunities in the particular profession.**

## Veterinary Science

### Bachelor of Veterinary Science

The full-time Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme is offered by the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Pretoria, the only faculty of its kind in South Africa.

Entry into the Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme is highly competitive due to the popularity of the programme and limited available spaces. Selection is based on academic merit and the compulsory Veterinary Science Value-added Form or the Veterinary Nursing Value-added Form (Read in conjunction with Annexures C, E and F (pages 13-20).

*In 2023 Dr Ross Elliott (right), specialist small animal veterinary surgeon in the Faculty's Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH) was a key role-player in saving the life of Janet, a cheetah in a sanctuary just outside Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland in East Africa when the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) of Somaliland approached the Faculty for assistance.*



A video about the Bachelor of Veterinary Science curriculum is available at: <https://youtu.be/kmwL-XcXgPc>

#### What does the programme entail?



- Applicants in the six-year Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme will complete a core curriculum over four and a half years (nine semesters) and then conclude their programme with 18 months of work-integrated training in the core and elective components and a research project.
- The Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme consists of a combination of lectures, electronic learning opportunities, discussions, demonstrations, seminars, assignments, curricular community engagement, group work, practicals and clinical work, which are offered mainly in the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital and its satellite community clinics and include exposure to private practices, state veterinary services, commercial and small-scale farms, abattoirs and various other related industries.
- The programme's first year is a biological science foundation year and is presented on the Hatfield Campus. The remaining veterinary-specific years are offered at the Onderstepoort Campus.
- The language of tuition is English at the University of Pretoria.
- **Veterinarians and personal wellbeing:** The Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme and a career in veterinary science is both challenging and enriching, and applicants should take note that a high level of mental resilience is required to thrive in this profession. Applicants with prior or existing mental health risks should consider this carefully and seek professional advice when considering a career as a veterinary professional.



*In 2023, Dr Christina Eberhardt, an internal medicine and cardiology specialist for horses and senior lecturer in equine medicine at the Faculty led a team that performed South Africa and Africa's first transvenous electrical cardioversion (TVEC) on a horse named Skye, a 17-year-old Warmblood.*



# Veterinary Science

## State veterinary services

A significant number of veterinarians are employed as state or provincial veterinarians in government service. They render essential regulatory services related to the diagnosis, surveillance, monitoring, control, prevention and eradication of notifiable diseases. State veterinarians are also responsible for matters related to the import and export of animals and animal products and food safety and security. In regions where there are no private practitioners, state veterinarians also provide clinical services. Veterinarians are also employed in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the South African Police Service (SAPS).

## Private practice

Most veterinarians in the country are gainfully employed in private practice, either in their own practices, in partnership, as assistants or as locums. There are several specialisations in private practice: production animal practice, providing veterinary services to the livestock farmer (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and game), companion animal practice (dogs, cats, horses, cage birds, etc) and mixed practice (pets/production animals/wildlife). The services provided by the private practitioner include, among others, clinical services, disease prevention strategies, advice and a whole range of consultative services on nutrition, management, production, reproduction, and biotechnology.

## Research

Research can be conducted in a broad spectrum of areas (veterinary, agricultural and biomedical sciences), attending to problems related to both animals and humans.

## Academia

Graduates can teach at veterinary, medical, agricultural and natural science institutions, conduct research, participate in community engagement activities and provide clinical services.

## Private, state and provincial diagnostic laboratories

Graduates can provide routine or forensic diagnostic services involving pathology, clinical pathology, microbiology and toxicology.

## Career opportunities

The **Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)** employs all South African Bachelor of Veterinary Science graduates for 12 months' **Compulsory Community Service (CCS)** after completing the Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme and before graduates are allowed to practice as veterinarians in South Africa for any other employer including self-employment. For more information, visit [www.dalrrd.gov.za](http://www.dalrrd.gov.za).

## Veterinary public health

Food security and the production of safe food for human consumption are critical fields in which the veterinarian plays a key role. Veterinarians are responsible for ensuring the maintenance of meat and milk hygiene in abattoirs and milk processing plants and their role in the maintenance and improvement of animal health on farms. Veterinarians involved in veterinary public health play an essential role in the control of zoonotic diseases (ie diseases transferred from animals to humans).

## Consultancy

The veterinarian can provide specialised or specialist services to the farm animal and pet industries, such as a consultant in the pig and poultry industries, feedlots, or specialist practices (such as surgery, internal medicine, ophthalmology, and dentistry). In a specialist practice, the practitioner will need to have the appropriate postgraduate qualification and be registered with the SAVC to practise as a specialist veterinarian.

## Commerce

The veterinarian is involved in research and product development in the pharmaceutical and feed industries and the provision of technical advice in sales and management.

## Laboratory animal science

The veterinarian is an essential member of the team involved in the welfare of laboratory animals, monitoring the utilisation of animals for experimental purposes and giving advice on ethical issues.

## Poultry production

The poultry industry provides large volumes of animal protein for human consumption, and veterinarians play a pivotal role in food security.

## Animal welfare

The veterinarian is intimately involved in animal welfare in providing clinical services and advice, and management at welfare organisations. Veterinarians are involved in general matters pertaining to the welfare of animals through the promotion of appropriate husbandry practices, nutritional practices, disease prevention strategies and sound production systems.

## Wildlife management

The veterinarian may pursue career opportunities in wildlife ranching, conservation and zoological institutions. This has been a growing field in recent years.

## International employment

Graduates from the Faculty enjoy wide national and international recognition. The Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree of the University of Pretoria is accredited for registration as a veterinarian in the United Kingdom by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council, and the Veterinary Council of Namibia.

## More information

**South African Veterinary Association (SAVA):** [www.sava.co.za](http://www.sava.co.za)

**SAVA Young members:**  
[www.facebook.com/SAVAyoungmembers](https://www.facebook.com/SAVAyoungmembers)

**South African Veterinary Council (SAVC):**  
[www.savc.org.za](http://www.savc.org.za)

# Veterinary Science



## Who is the ideal candidate?



For a young person who likes working with people and is interested in animals and a career in biomedical sciences, veterinary science provides a spectrum of exciting opportunities. Like many similar career options, veterinary science may perhaps be considered a 'calling', and the decision to become a veterinarian involves the mind, the body, as well as the heart.

While love for animals may be a component of the decision to pursue veterinary science or veterinary nursing as a career, a more profound empathy will be required, as well as the passion for improving people's lives by improving food safety and security, coupled with a sense of compassion and caring for animals, their owners and farmers. The course is demanding and requires significant mental and emotional resilience, engagement, dedication and hard work.

Being a veterinarian or a veterinary nurse are both careers with long and often irregular hours and usually involves hard physical work while testing tolerance levels. The ability to work with animals, but even more so with people, is essential.

## What makes this programme unique?



Bachelor of Veterinary Science is regarded as level 8 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), enabling the graduate to enter postgraduate programmes at the master's level.

### Accreditation and professional registration

The Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme is accredited with the **South African Veterinary Council (SAVC)**, the **Veterinary Council of Namibia (VCN)**, the **Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)** in the United Kingdom, and the **Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC)** in Australia and New Zealand. Bachelor of Veterinary Science graduates are eligible to register as veterinarians in these and several other countries without passing any further professional examinations. The **SAVC** governs the ethics and standards of veterinary education and practice in South Africa. All students must register with the Council at first registration in the Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme, maintain their registration annually, and adhere to its rules. Registration with the SAVC is a prerequisite for practising as a veterinarian in South Africa.



## Minimum admission requirements

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC/IEB for 2025			
	Achievement level			APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	
<b>Bachelor of Veterinary Science</b> [6 years]	5	5	5	35

Proposed second choice programmes for Bachelor of Veterinary Science are Bachelor of Science *Zoology* and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Animal Science. These programmes are also recommended for applicants who intend to apply again for a transfer to the Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme in 2025 or later. Note: Students who intend to apply for admission to Bachelor of Veterinary Science may register for Bachelor of Science *Zoology* or Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Animal Science modules, including Medical Terminology (MTL 180).

**Careers:** Veterinarians in private practice, research, academia or state veterinary services. Veterinarians can also work in the following fields: diagnostic laboratories, veterinary public health (milk and meat hygiene, control of transfer of disease), technical services, research and product development in pharmaceutical and food industries, consultancy, laboratory animal management, wildlife management, poultry and pig production and animal welfare. Further details appear on page 5.



## Veterinary Nursing

# Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing

### What does the programme entail?



- The language of tuition is English at the University of Pretoria.
- Applications for the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme close on 31 May.
- The Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme requires three years of full-time study. The first and second years of the programme are devoted to didactic teaching and practical skills training.
- In the third (final) year of the programme, students undergo work-integrated clinical training.
- The Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme consists of lectures, electronic learning opportunities, discussions, demonstrations, assignments, curricular community engagement activities, group work, practicals and clinical work. The latter is offered mainly in the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital and its community clinics and includes exposure to private practices and other facilities.
- Student support provided includes tutoring and academic support.
- Entry into the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme is highly competitive due to its increasing popularity and limited available spaces.
- Selection is based on academic merit and the Veterinary Nursing Value-added Form (VNVAf)
- A graduate who successfully completed the programme will have received broad-based training in veterinary nursing. It is regarded to be at the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 7. A graduate can enter a postgraduate diploma in veterinary nursing, which is at NQF level 8.



A video about the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing curriculum is available at:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/12alg1sCNkM5vOL2jeS36S1sfx3FivhLk/view?usp=drive\\_web](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12alg1sCNkM5vOL2jeS36S1sfx3FivhLk/view?usp=drive_web)





# Veterinary Nursing

## Who is the ideal candidate?



Veterinary nursing requires a dedicated and motivated person with a particular interest in working with animals and their owners. The veterinary nurse is a professional team member that includes veterinarians and is expected to show a high degree of responsibility, organisational skills, and patience. Self-discipline, compassion, honesty, dedication and a sense of humour are recommended attributes.

The programme is demanding and requires dedication and hard work. It is a career with long and often irregular hours. The ability to work with both people and animals is essential.



## What makes this programme unique?



### Accreditation and professional registration

The Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme is accredited by the **South African Veterinary Council (SAVC)**.

**The SAVC** governs the ethics and standards of veterinary nursing education and practice in South Africa. All students must register with the Council at first registration in the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme, maintain their registration annually, and adhere to its rules. Registration with the SAVC is a prerequisite for practising as a veterinary nurse in South Africa.



### Career opportunities

#### Industries

Employment in the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital and the pharmaceutical and animal feed industries.



#### Research

Zoological gardens, game parks, laboratory animal units, rehabilitation centres, research centres, boarding establishments, organised agriculture, dairies and farming operations also offer gainful employment.



Private veterinary practice that could range from urban to rural, mixed general or species-specific. The veterinary nurse assists with anaesthesia, operating theatre management, intensive care, radiography, laboratory analysis, animal patient care and nursing, disease prevention, administration and practice management.



#### State veterinary services

Veterinary nurses are also employed in provincial and national government departments and animal welfare societies throughout South Africa.



#### More information

**Veterinary Nursing Association of South Africa (VNASA):** [www.sava.co.za](http://www.sava.co.za)

**South African Veterinary Council (SAVC):** [www.savc.org.za](http://www.savc.org.za)

## Minimum admission requirements

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC/IEB for 2025			
	Achievement level			APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences or Life Sciences	
<b>Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing</b> [3 years]	4	4	4	28

For advice on a second-choice programme for Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing, please consult a Student Advisor. To make an appointment, send an email to [carol.bosch@up.ac.za](mailto:carol.bosch@up.ac.za).

**Careers:** The following institutions employ veterinary nurses: veterinary clinics and veterinary hospitals, specialist veterinary facilities, the pharmaceutical industry, the animal food industry, animal welfare societies, zoological gardens, game parks, laboratory animal units, rehabilitation centres, research centres, animal boarding establishments, organised agriculture, dairies and farming operations. Further details appear on page 8.

# Annexures

## Annexure A

### UP percentage conversion table

The following table may be used to **convert symbols and numbers into a UP percentage** when applying for studies at the University of Pretoria.

**Note:**

- USAf exemption certificate is required.
- Candidates must meet faculty-specific requirements before they will be considered for *conditional* admission and/or *final* admission.

These qualifications will be considered for <i>final</i> admission										
Percentage awarded by UP (equivalent to the NSC achievement level)	HIGCSE/ NSSC HL	AS Level	A Level	IB		KOMBI ABITUR	KCSE		NCV % (Performance level)	
		GCE CIE NSSC AS	GCE CIE CGCE UACE WAEC ZIMSEC	IB SL	IB HL				Fundamental	Vocational
100% (7)						100%	81-100	A		
95% (7)			A*		7	95%				
90% (7)	1	A	A	7	6	90%				
85% (7)			B	6	5	85%				
80% (7)			C			80%	74-80	A-	80% (7)	80–100% (5)
75% (6)	2	B	D	5	4	75%				
70% (6)						70%	67-73	B+	70% (6)	70–79% (4)
65% (5)		C		4	3	65%	60-66	B		
60% (5)	3		E			60%			60% (5)	
55% (4)		D		3	2	55%	53-59	B-		
50% (4)				2		50%	46-52	C+	50% (4)	50–69% (3)
45% (3)	4	E		1	1	45%	39-45	C		
40% (3)						40%				40–49% (2)

The University of Pretoria will only accept an official Cambridge Certificate (Statement of Results) that displays an EMIS number.

**AS Level**—Advanced Subsidiary Level

- General Certificate of Education (GCE) AS Level – (Issued by the governing body, Ofqual, in the UK)
- Cambridge International Examination (CIE) AS Level

**A Level**—Advanced Level

- General Certificate of Education (GCE) A Level – (Issued by the governing body, Ofqual, in the UK)
- Cambridge International Examination (CIE) A Level

**IB SL**—International Baccalaureate (Standard Levels)

**IB HL**—International Baccalaureate (Higher Levels)

**KOMBI ABITUR**—German International Abitur (South Africa)

**KCSE**—Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education

**NCV**—National Certificate Vocational

# Annexures

## Annexure A (continued)

These qualifications will be considered for <i>final</i> admission														
Percentage awarded by UP (equivalent NSC achievement level)	ZEUGNIS DER ALLGEMEINEN HOCHSCHUL-REIFE/ABITUR (Germany)	BACCALAU-RÉAT GÉNÉRAL (France) AND CERTIFICADO DE FIM DE ESTUDOS SECUNDÁRIOS (Portugal)	HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (Canada)							HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (United States of America)			AP (College Board)	
			Alberta		British Columbia/Yukon			Ontario						
			%	Grade	%	Grade	GPA	%	Grade	%	Grade	GPA	Grade	APS
100% (7)	15	20								97–100	A+	4.0		
95% (7)	14	19	90–100	A+	86–100	A	4	90–100	A+	93–96	A	4.0	A+ A	5
90% (7)	13	18	85–89	A	73–85	B	3	80–89	A	90–92	A-	3.7		
85% (7)	12	17	80–84	A-	67–72	C+	2.5	70–79	B	87–89	B+	3.3	A- B+ B	4
80% (7)	11	16	77–79	B+	60–66	C	2	60–69	C	83–86	B	3.0	B- C+ C	3
75% (6)	10 to 9	15	73–76	B	50–59	C-	1	50–59	D	80–82	B-	2.7		
70% (6)	8	14	70–72	B-	0–49	Failed	0	0–49	Failed	77–79	C+	2.3		
65% (5)	7	13	67–69	C+						73–76	C	2.0		
60% (5)	6	12	63–66	C						70–72	C-	1.3		
55% (4)	5	11	60–62	C-						67–69	D+	1.0		
50% (4)	4	10	55–59	D+						63–66	D	0.7		
45% (3)			50–54	D						60–62	D-	0.0		
40% (3)			0–49	F										

**Zeugnis der Allgemeinen Hochschulreife/Abitur**—German school-leaving certificate  
**Baccalauréat Général**—France, Monaco and other French territories school-leaving certificate  
**Certificado de Fim de Estudos Secundários**—Portugal school-leaving certificate

**High School Diploma**—Canada school-leaving certificate  
**High School Diploma**—United States of America (USA) school-leaving certificate  
**Advanced Placement**—College Board

**School leaving qualifications from countries not mentioned above eg New Zealand, Spain, Morocco, Scotland, Australia etc:** These qualifications will also be considered provided they comply with USAf exemption requirements for a complete/foreign exemption certificate. Faculties will determine admission requirements based on the school subjects passed and their symbols/percentages.

These qualifications will be considered only for <i>conditional</i> admission If final AS and/or A levels have been completed, this table will not apply. This table can also not be used for final admission and or registration.		
Percentage awarded by UP (equivalent to the NSC achievement level)	GCSE	
	CIE IGCSE LGCSE BGCSE SGCSE  O Level NSSC OL CGCE UCE NECO WAEC ZIMSEC	UK England Wales Northern Ireland
100% (7)		
95% (7)		
90% (7)	A*	9
85% (7)	A	8
80% (7)		7
75% (6)	B	6
70% (6)		5
65% (5)	C	4
60% (5)		
55% (4)	D	3
50% (4)		
45% (3)		
40% (3)	E	2

The University of Pretoria will only accept an official Cambridge Certificate (Statement of Results) that displays an EMIS number.

**GCSE**—General Certificate of Secondary Education (CIE and UK Cambridge) This includes:

- CIE: Cambridge International Examination
- IGCSE: International General Certificate of Secondary Education
- LGCSE: Lesotho General Certificate of Secondary Education
- BGCSE: Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education
- SGCSE: Eswatini General Certificate of Secondary Education

**O Level**—Ordinary Level This includes:

- NSSC OL: Namibia Senior Certificate (Ordinary level)
- CGCE: Cameroon General Certificate of Education
- UCE: Uganda Certificate of Education
- NECO: Nigeria National Examination Council
- WAEC: West African Examination Council
- ZIMSEC: Zimbabwe School Examination Council



## Annexures

### Annexure B

#### Calculation of the University Module Achievement Score (UMAS) for applicants with previous university exposure

The UMAS of applicants who are currently registered will be calculated based on their academic achievement during the last three semesters of tertiary studies. The UMAS of applicants who are not registered and have completed a tertiary qualification will be calculated based on their academic achievement during the last year of tertiary studies.

Applicants from other universities will be responsible to key in the relevant completed module codes, module names, final grades, credits and the year completed on the UP Student Portal before 15 September, up to the minimum value of 120 credits. Failed modules must be captured as well. All captured information will be validated before the university module achievement score (UMAS) will be calculated. All transcripts (academic records) for completed modules must be uploaded on the UP Student Portal. UP students' results will be transferred and need not be keyed in on the UP Student Portal.

The UMAS calculation is based on the number of completed subjects/modules. The formula returns a score which has a maximum value of 80 (excluding bonus points).

The grid below will be used to calculate the UMAS:

Number of university subjects	Results/grades obtained per university subject				
	>75%	70–74%	60–69%	50–59%	<50%
3	25.0	20.0	16.7	13.3	1.7
4	19.5	15.5	12.9	10.3	1.3
5	16.0	12.8	10.6	8.4	1.0
6	13.3	11.0	9.0	7.2	0.8
7	11.4	9.7	7.9	6.3	0.7
8	10.0	8.8	7.1	5.7	0.6
9	8.9	7.8	6.5	5.2	0.5
10	8.0	7.0	6.0	4.8	0.5
11	7.3	6.4	5.5	4.4	0.4
12	6.7	5.8	5.0	4.2	0.4
13	6.2	5.4	4.6	3.8	0.4
14	5.7	5.0	4.3	3.6	0.3
15	5.3	4.7	4.0	3.3	0.3
16	5.0	4.4	3.8	3.1	0.3
17	4.7	4.1	3.5	2.9	0.3
18	4.4	3.9	3.3	2.8	0.3
19	4.2	3.7	3.2	2.6	0.2
20	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>5</b>

**Bonus points are added as follows for the highest degree obtained:**

3-year Bachelor's degree completed (NQF Level 7):	+1
4-year (or more) bachelor's degree, honours degree and/or postgraduate diploma completed (NQF Level 8):	+2
Master's degree completed (NQF Level 9):	+4
Doctoral degree completed (NQF Level 10):	+5
One additional bonus point is scored for every degree and/or postgraduate qualification obtained with distinction.	

## Annexures

### Annexure C

#### Bachelor of Veterinary Science 08130005: Selection categories

				Maximum number of admissions per year of study			
Category		Minimum requirements to be placed on the selection list	Calculation of the Merit Point Score	First year		Second year	
				Open	Designated	Open	Designated
A1	South African school leavers enrolled for the NSC or IEB: first round of selection in July	NSC or IEB (Grade 11 for conditional selection) with APS 35 <b>AND</b> English 60%; Mathematics 60%; Physical Sciences 60%	NSC or IEB (Grade 11 for conditional selection) final scores in Mathematics (30%); English (20%); Physical Sciences (30%); and VSVAF score (20%) (see Annexure E)	50	50	-	-
A2	South African school leavers enrolled for the NSC or IEB: second round of selection in January	NSC or IEB with APS 35 <b>AND</b> English 60%; Mathematics 60%; Physical Sciences 60%; <b>AND</b> placement on the selection list for Category A1.	NSC or IEB final scores in Mathematics (30%); English (20%); Physical Sciences (30%); and VSVAF score (20%) (see Annexure E)	Numbers determined by cancellations and forfeited places in January of the registration year		-	-
A3	South African school leavers enrolled in other schooling systems (as defined in Annexure A)	A minimum APS score of 35 using the conversion table in Annexure A (Grade 11 equivalent for conditional selection) <b>AND</b> An equivalent of English 60%, Mathematics 60%, Physical Sciences (or Physics and Chemistry) 60% using the conversion table in Annexure A	Final (Grade 11 equivalent for conditional selection) available scores in Mathematics (30%), Physical Sciences or average for Physics and Chemistry (30%), English (20%) and VSVAF/VNVAF score (20%)	The total number of places allocated in A1 and A3 is 50 per open and designated groups. The number of places allocated to A3 will be determined in proportion to the number of applications, eg 500 applications of which 400 NSC or IEB and 100 others will result in 40 NSC or IEB admissions and 10 other admissions.		-	-
B1	South African applicants with university exposure: internal transfers from first year BSc (UP) (excluding the BSc Extended Programme)	Registered for a BSc programme at the University of Pretoria, including all fundamental modules <b>AND</b> Registered for the following specific modules: CMY117, WTW134, MLB111, PHY131, MTL180, BME120, CMY127, GTS161 and ZEN161	Average of the following modules: CMY 117, WTW 134, MLB 111, and PHY 131) (80%); VSVAF (20%) (Annexure E)	-	-	17	13
B2	South African applicants with university exposure: internal transfers from second to final year BSc (UP)	Registered for a BSc programme at the University of Pretoria <b>AND</b> completed a minimum of 120 credits including all fundamental modules <b>AND</b> Registered for or obtained credits for the following specific UP modules: CMY117, WTW134, MLB111, PHY131, MTL180, BME120, CMY127, GTS161 and ZEN161.	UMAS (80%) (Annexure B); and VSVAF score (20%) (Annexure E)	-	-	3	3
B3	South African applicants with university exposure: UP BSc graduates and postgraduates (BSc degree completed) (May include external transfer students who completed the required modules at UP within the past 5 years)	Completed a BSc degree and/or BSc postgraduate qualification at the University of Pretoria; <b>AND</b> Obtained credits for the following specific UP modules: CMY117, WTW134, MLB111, PHY131, MTL180, BME120, CMY127, GTS161 and EN161		3	3	-	-
B4	South African applicants with university exposure: external transfers (other universities) from first to final year BSc (medically or biologically related) programmes, and BSc graduates and postgraduates. (Selection for Category B4 will only be done at the end of January).	Valid NSC or IEB with APS 35; <b>AND</b> English 60%, Mathematics 60%; Physical Sciences 60% <b>OR</b> Equivalent to first year Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics offered by UP <b>AND</b> Completed a minimum of 120 credits at South African University level.	UMAS (80%) (Annexure B); and VSVAF score (20%) (Annexure E)	7	7	-	-

# Annexures

## Annexure C (continued)

### Bachelor of Veterinary Science 08130005: Selection categories

			Maximum number of admissions per year of study			
Category	Minimum requirements to be placed on the selection list	Calculation of the Merit Point Score	First year		Second year	
			Open	Designated	Open	Designated
<b>B5</b>	South African applicants enrolled in the third semester of the BSc extended programme of UP  Registered for the BSc extended programme at the University of Pretoria <b>AND</b> Completed the following modules with a minimum final mark of 65%: AIM111, AIM121, CMY133, CMY143, LST133, LST143, MLB133, MLB143, PHY133, PHY144, UPO120, WTW133 and WTW144 <b>AND</b> Registered for the following modules: BME120, CMY154, CMY127, MLB153, MTL180, PHY154, WTW154, GTS161 and ZEN161	Average of the following modules: CMY133, CMY143, CMY154, WTW133, WTW144, WTW154, MLB133, MLB143, MLB153, PHY133, PHY144 and PHY154) (80%) VSVAf (20%) (Annexure E)	-	-	-	4
<b>B6</b>	South African applicants with university exposure: BSc graduates (BSc degree completed) registered for the final year of postgraduate studies in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, UP.  Valid NSC or IEB with APS 35; AND English 60%, Mathematics 60%; Physical Sciences 60% <b>OR</b> evidence of university tuition in English, AND Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics passed at university level. <b>AND</b> BSc degree completed at a South African University or equivalent level <b>AND</b> in the final year of registration in a postgraduate diploma or MSc programme at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, UP.	UMAS (80%) (Annexure B); and VSVAf score (20%) (Annexure E and F)	1		1	
<b>C</b>	Applicants nominated by DALRRD, Provincial Departments of Agriculture, SANDF or SAPS  Same as for category A or B in accordance with entrance level of applicant	Same as for category A or B	6	-	-	-
<b>D1</b>	School leavers from countries other than South Africa, who wrote the NSC or IEB  NSC or IEB with admission to degree studies with APS 35 and English 60%; Mathematics 60%; Physical Sciences 60%	Same as for category A1	9	-	-	-
<b>D2</b>	School leavers from countries other than South Africa  A minimum APS score of 35 using the conversion table in Annexure A (Grade 11 equivalent for conditional selection) <b>AND</b> An equivalent of English 60%, Mathematics 60%, Physical Sciences (or Physics and Chemistry) 60% using the conversion table in Annexure A	Final (Grade 11 equivalent for conditional selection) available scores in Mathematics (40%), Physical Sciences or average for Physics and Chemistry (20%), English (20%) and VSVAf/VNVAf score (20%)	9	-	-	-
<b>D3</b>	Applicants from countries other than South Africa, with university exposure  NSC or IEB with admission to degree studies with APS 35 and English 60%; Mathematics 60%; Physical Sciences 60% <b>OR</b> Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics passed at NSC (or equivalent qualification) or university level; and evidence of tuition in English or UP accepted score in Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) <b>AND</b> Completed equivalent of a minimum of 120 credits at South African University level	UMAS (80%) (Annexure B); VSVAf (20%) (Annexure E).	2	-	2	-
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>147</b>		<b>43</b>	



## Annexures

### Annexure C (continued)

#### Bachelor of Veterinary Science 08130005: Selection categories

##### 1. School leavers

- A school leaver is someone who has never been registered in a tertiary education programme.
- A valid NSC/IEB or equivalent qualification (See Annexure A) with admission for degree purposes.
- Subject requirements and the required Admission Point Score (APS) are indicated in the table on page 4 and in Annexure A in this brochure. The APS is calculated from the achievement levels obtained in the six 20-credit subjects of the NSC.
- Life Orientation is excluded when calculating the APS.
- For applicants in the NSC or IEB schooling systems, conditional admission is based on Grade 11 final examination results and the Veterinary Science Value-added Form (VSVAF), and final admission is based on maintaining a similar performance in the NSC/IEB final examinations (Refer to Annexures E and F).
- For applicants from other schooling systems (as defined in Annexure A) conditional admission is based on the final results of the year preceding the last year of schooling or equivalent, and final admission is based on submitting a certificate for admission to degree studies or complete or conditional exemption by USAf.
- Additional admission criteria may be used, including an interview and additional selection tests.

##### 2. Applicants with previous higher education exposure

There is an opportunity for students with previous higher education experience to also apply for the Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme. Placement in either the first or second year of the Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme will depend on, among others, merit and subject choices. Applicants in this category should also consult Annexure B in this brochure for the calculation of UMAS.

##### 3. Applicants who are not South African citizens

- A small number of students from countries other than South Africa are admitted to the programme.
- Applicants who are accepted receive a letter of confirmation from the University, which will facilitate their application for a study permit.
- A valid study permit, obtained in the country of origin, is a prerequisite for registration.
- Applicants from countries other than South Africa must comply with all UP and the Department of Home Affairs' regulations relating to students in this category.
- The APS conversion table is provided in Annexure A.
- Please consult the International Cooperation Division's **Newcomers Guide 2024** for more information: [www.up.ac.za/programmes](http://www.up.ac.za/programmes) > Undergraduate > Admission information.

##### 4. Conditional admission

- Conditionally admitted applicants forfeit their placement if they do not comply with the relevant conditions (refer to Annexure G)



*In a first for South Africa, a veterinary team from the Faculty led by veterinary wildlife specialist, Prof Katja Koeppel performed a beak replacement on a vulture in May 2023.*

# Annexures

## Annexure D

### Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing 08130006: Selection categories

				Maximum number of admissions	
Category		Minimum requirements to be placed on the selection list	Calculation of the Merit Point Score	Category	
				Open	Designated
A1	South African school leavers enrolled for the NSC or IEB: first round of selection in July	NSC or IEB (Grade 11 for conditional selection) with APS 28 <b>AND</b> English 50%; Mathematics 50%; Physical Sciences or Life Sciences 50%	Applicants indicating Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing as first choice will be favoured.  NSC or IEB (Grade 11 for conditional selection) final scores in Mathematics (40%); English (40%); and VNVAF (20%) (Annexure E)	16	16
A2	South African school leavers enrolled for the NSC or IEB: second round of selection in January	NSC or IEB with APS 28 <b>AND</b> English 50%; Mathematics 50%; Physical Sciences or Life Sciences 50% <b>AND</b> placement on the selection list for category A1	NSC or IEB final scores in Mathematics (40%); English (40%); and VNVAF (20%) (Annexure E)	Numbers determined by cancellations or forfeited places in January of the registration year	
A3	South African school leavers enrolled in other educational schooling systems (IGCSE/GCSE/ NSSC OL/O level or HIGCSE/NSSC HL or A/AS level or IB Diploma or ABITUR)	A minimum APS score of 28 when using the conversion table in Annexure A. <b>AND</b> an equivalent of English 50%, Mathematics 50%, Physical Sciences or Life Sciences (or Physics and Chemistry or Biology) 50% when using the conversion table in Annexure A.	Final (Grade 11 equivalent for conditional selection) available scores in Mathematics (40%), English (40%) and VSVAF/VNVAF score (20%)	The total number of places allocated in A1 and A3 is 16 per open and designated groups. The number of places allocated to A3 will be determined in proportion to the number of applications, eg 100 applications of which 40 NSC or IEB and 10 others will result in 4 NSC or IEB admissions and 1 other admission.	
B1	Applicants with university exposure	Valid NSC or IEB with APS 28; <b>AND</b> English 50%, Mathematics 50%; Physical Sciences or Life Sciences 50%	Applicants indicating Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing as first choice will be favoured.	4	4
B2	Applicants with university exposure: graduates (degree completed)	<b>OR</b> evidence of university tuition in English <b>AND</b> Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics or Biology passed at university level.  Completed a minimum of 120 credits in an accredited NQF level 5 or higher programme.	UMAS (80%) (Annexure B); VNVAF (20%) (Annexure E).	2	2
D1	School leavers from countries other than South Africa	NSC or IEB with admission to degree studies with APS 28 and English 50%; Mathematics 50%; Physical Sciences or Life Sciences 50%	Applicants indicating Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing as first choice will be favoured.  SADC preferred; then same as for category A1  Final available scores in Mathematics (40%), Physical Sciences or Life Sciences or average for Physics and Chemistry or Biology (20%), English (20%) and VSVAF/VNVAF score (20%).	4	
D2	Applicants from countries other than South Africa, with university exposure	NSC or IEB with admission to degree studies with APS 28 <b>AND</b> English 50%; Mathematics 50%; Physical Sciences (or Physics and Chemistry) or Life Sciences/Biology 50% <b>OR</b> Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics or Biology passed at university level, AND evidence of university tuition in English OR UP accepted score in Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL)	Applicants indicating Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing as first choice will be favoured.  SADC preferred; then same as for categories B1–B2.	2	
TOTAL				50	



## Annexures

### Annexure D (continued)

#### Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing 08130006: Selection categories

##### 1. School leavers

- A valid NSC/IEB or equivalent qualification with admission for degree purposes is required.
- Subject requirements and the required Admission Point Score (APS) are indicated in the table on page 4 in this brochure. The APS is calculated from the achievement levels obtained in six 20-credit NSC subjects.
- Life Orientation is excluded when calculating the APS.
- For applicants in the NSC or IEB schooling systems, conditional admission is based on Grade 11 final examination results and the Veterinary Nursing Value-added form (VNVAf), and final admission is based on maintaining a similar performance in the NSC/IEB final examinations (Refer to Annexures E and F).
- For applicants from other schooling systems (as defined in Annexure A), conditional admission is based on the final results of the year preceding the last year of schooling or equivalent, and final admission is based on the submission of a certificate for admission to degree studies, or complete or conditional exemption by USAf.
- Additional admission criteria may be used, including an interview and additional selection tests.
- School leaving applicants who are conditionally admitted based on their Grade 11 results will forfeit their placement if their NSC APS is more than 2 points lower than the Grade 11 APS used for conditional admission.

##### 2. Applicants with previous higher education exposure

There is an opportunity for students with previous higher education experience to also apply for the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme. Also, refer to Annexure B for the calculation of UMAS.

##### 3. Applicants who are not South African citizens

- A small number of students from countries other than South Africa may be admitted to the programme.
- Applicants who are accepted receive a letter of confirmation from the University, which will facilitate their application for a study permit.
- A valid study permit, obtained in the country of origin, is a prerequisite for registration.
- Applicants from countries other than South Africa must comply with all UP and Department of Home Affairs' regulations relating to students in this category.
- The APS conversion table appears in Annexure A.
- Please consult the International Cooperation Division's **Newcomers Guide 2024** for more information: [www.up.ac.za/programmes](http://www.up.ac.za/programmes)  
> Undergraduate > Admission information

##### 4. Conditional admission

- Conditionally admitted applicants forfeit their placement if they do not comply with the relevant conditions (refer to Annexure G)





# Annexures

## Annexure E

### Veterinary Science or Veterinary Nursing Value Added Form (VSVAF/VNVAF)

1. The Veterinary Science Value-added Form (VSVAF) or the Veterinary Nursing Value-added Form (VNVAF) is intended to guide applicants in the type of prior exposure that will help them to make an informed decision about a veterinary or veterinary nursing career and prepare them for their studies.
2. Each applicant's VSVAF/VNVAF is scored (for selection) using a rubric. The rubric, as well as scores per question, may be adjusted annually by the selection committee based on new information and the needs of the FVS and the veterinary or veterinary nursing industries in RSA.
3. Submission of the VSVAF/VNVAF is compulsory, and the score obtained contributes 20% towards the merit point score used for selection within each category as explained in Annexure C or D.
4. The final date for online submission of the VSVAF/VNVAF to be considered is one month after the closing date of the applications. An empty VSVAF/VNVAF will automatically be submitted on behalf of the applicant by midnight, which will contribute a score of 0 to the Merit Point Score of the applicant. No additions to the VSVAF/VNVAF or supporting documents will be considered after one month after the closing date of the applications. The official closing date will be communicated and published to applicants.
5. Applicants must complete the VSVAF/VNVAF with each application, except for school leavers considered in the second round of selection in January, in which case the score obtained during the first round of selection in July will be transferred to the second round of selection in January.
6. Applicants submitting the VSVAF/VNVAF must submit evidence for sections 1, 2 and 3 in the form, and must write a short reflection about their experience in the case of section 2.
7. Applicants can download the forms to be completed for section 3 (Annexure F). These forms will be used as evidence to validate the information provided by the applicant.
8. Prospective Bachelor of Veterinary Science students must shadow a veterinarian, and prospective Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing students must shadow a veterinary nurse.
9. Any false information provided by an applicant on the Veterinary Value-added Form may result in immediate cancellation of the application.

*A summary of the content of the Veterinary Science Value-added Form (VSVAF) or the Veterinary Nursing Value-added Form (VNVAF) that prospective veterinary and veterinary nursing students at the University of Pretoria will complete online after the application is processed.*

The sections used in the VSVAF/VNVAF are as follows:

1. Evidence of a balanced lifestyle to promote and sustain personal wellness (sports, culture, leadership, religious, adventure and other such activities)	2. Animal experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School/university official leadership positions</li> <li>▪ School/university/club/provincial or other activities</li> </ul> <p><i>You will be required to upload evidence.</i></p> <p><i>Maximum score awarded: 5 points</i></p>	<p>Personal experience and observation of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An animal being killed for humane purposes</li> <li>▪ An animal being slaughtered (only for Bachelor of Veterinary Science applicants)</li> <li>▪ An animal giving birth</li> </ul> <p><i>You will be required to upload evidence (where possible) and reflect on your experience in writing.</i></p> <p><i>Maximum score awarded: 6 points</i></p>
3. Evidence of career shadowing and recommendation by a relevant professional person	
<p>Indicate if you have accompanied a veterinarian or veterinary nurse (depending on the programme that you are applying for) in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Farm and food animal private practice*</li> <li>▪ Small animal private practice</li> <li>▪ State veterinary office (only for Bachelor of Veterinary Science applicants)</li> <li>▪ Welfare organisation</li> <li>▪ Other employment</li> </ul> <p><i>You will be required to submit proof (Annexure F1/F2)</i></p> <p><i>Maximum score awarded: 9 points</i></p> <p><small>* Farm and food animal private practice include practices working with cattle, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, ostriches, poultry, fish and wildlife.</small></p>	

## Annexure F1: Bachelor of Veterinary Science

## Career Shadowing Validation form: Bachelor of Veterinary Science applicants

Prospective Bachelor of Veterinary Science students should shadow a veterinarian

*This form must only be completed by a SAVC-registered veterinary professional (veterinarian), depending on the programme that the prospective student is applying for.*

Name of Bachelor of Veterinary Science applicant/ prospective student:			
ID number of applicant/prospective student:			
Name of veterinarian:			
SAVC registration no:			
Practice/office/organisation name:			
Email address of veterinarian:			
Period shadowed:	From:	To:	
Please indicate the specific career shadowing done with veterinarian:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Farm and food animals			
<input type="checkbox"/> Small animals			
<input type="checkbox"/> State veterinary office			
<input type="checkbox"/> Welfare organisation			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other shadowing:			
Additional comments by veterinarian:			
<input type="checkbox"/> I agree that the applicant may share my information with UP for administrative purposes only			
Declaration of conflict of interest by veterinarian (compulsory)			
<input type="checkbox"/> I declare that I have the following conflict of interest with this application:			
<input type="checkbox"/> I declare that I have no conflict of interest with this application			
Signed at (place)			
by (full names of veterinarian)			
on this	day of	20	
Signature of veterinarian		Signature of applicant/prospective student	

# Annexures

## Annexure F2: Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing

### Career Shadowing Validation form: Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing applicants

Prospective Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing students should shadow a veterinary nurse.

*This form must only be completed by a SAVC-registered veterinary professional (veterinary nurse), depending on the programme that the prospective student is applying for.*

<b>Name of Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing applicant/ prospective student:</b>		
<b>ID number of applicant/prospective student:</b>		
<b>Name of veterinary nurse:</b>		
<b>SAVC registration no:</b>		
<b>Practice/office/organisation name:</b>		
<b>Email address of veterinary nurse:</b>		
<b>Period shadowed:</b>	From:	To:
<b>Please indicate the specific career shadowing done with veterinary nurse:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Farm and food animals		
<input type="checkbox"/> Small animals		
<input type="checkbox"/> Welfare organisation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other shadowing:		
<b>Additional comments by veterinary nurse:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> I agree that the applicant may share my information with UP for administrative purposes only		
<b>Declaration of conflict of interest by veterinary nurse (compulsory)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> I declare that I have the following conflict of interest with this application:		
<input type="checkbox"/> I declare that I have no conflict of interest with this application		
<b>Signed at (place)</b>		
<b>by (full names of veterinary nurse)</b>		
<b>on this</b>	<b>day of</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Signature of veterinary nurse</b>		<b>Signature of applicant/prospective student</b>



## Annexures

### Annexure G

#### Specific conditions after conditional selection for Bachelor of Veterinary Science or Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing

Category	Minimum requirements to be placed on the selection list
<b>A1</b> South African school leavers enrolled for the NSC or IEB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If conditionally selected on the grounds of final Gr 11 results, the Merit Point Score based on NSC or IEB results should not be more than 5% lower than that based on final Grade 11 scores that resulted in selection.</li> <li>If conditionally selected on the grounds of final Gr 11 results, the APS for the final NSC or IEB results should still meet the minimum required APS of 35 for Bachelor of Veterinary Science or 28 for Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing.</li> <li>If conditionally selected on the grounds of final Gr 11 results, the final NSC or IEB results should still meet the minimum required score of 60% for Bachelor of Veterinary Science for English, Mathematics and Physical Sciences or 50% for Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing for English, Mathematics and Physical Sciences or Life Sciences.</li> <li>Forfeiture will not be reversed based on amended NSC or IEB results after the remarking of NSC or IEB examination papers.</li> </ul>
<b>A3</b> South African school leavers in other schooling systems (As defined in Annexure A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicants conditionally selected must submit a certificate for admission to degree studies or complete or conditional exemption by USAf before registration.</li> </ul>
<b>B1 – B5</b> Applicants with university exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicants conditionally selected must pass all modules registered for at the time of selection, during the examination period after selection.</li> <li>Applicants conditionally selected may not deregister ('drop') any required first-year Bachelor of Veterinary Science module.</li> </ul>
<b>D1 – D3</b> Applicants from countries other than South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicants from countries other than South Africa, conditionally selected in category D1 should comply with all conditions as set for Category A.</li> <li>Applicants from countries other than South Africa, conditionally selected in category D3 (for Bachelor of Veterinary Science) or D2 (for Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing) should comply with all conditions as set for Category B.</li> <li>Applicants from countries other than South Africa, conditionally selected must submit a certificate for admission to degree studies or complete conditional exemption by USAf before registration.</li> </ul>



Nicole Androulla Hasell, a Bachelor of Veterinary Science student in her fourth year at the Faculty in 2023 distinguished herself at the South African Powerlifting Championships. She was the top overall (across all weight classes and age groups) female student lifter for the weekend and also won the junior category (18 - 23 years) in the 57kg weight class and came 4th in the open category (24 - 35 years). In the process she qualified for the Junior World Championships in Romania that took place in August this year.

## Annexures

### Annexure H

#### The application and selection process (all applicants):

- Step 1** Applications **open on 1 April** for the first as well as the second round of selection. Apply on the UP website: [www.up.ac.za/apply](http://www.up.ac.za/apply).
- Step 2** All information on the initial application is verified. Only applicants who comply with the **minimum requirements** proceed to step 3. All future communication will happen through the contact information provided by the applicant.
- Step 3** The **VSVAF/VNVAF link** will open on the UP Student Portal. Applicants should complete the online VSVAF/VNVAF and upload supporting documents.
- Step 4** Applications **close on 31 May** for all applicants (first as well as the second round of selection).
- Step 5** The online **VSVAF/VNVAF closes a month after the closing date for applications**, and a score is automatically awarded based on the self-declaration by the applicant. Should an applicant fail to complete the electronic VSVAF/VNVAF, the system will automatically submit the form on behalf of the applicant on the closing date.
- Step 6** The VSVAF/VNVAF is manually **validated**, and the score adjusted (when applicable) for all applicants that are within or close to the cut-off level for selection.
- Step 7** Outstanding academic records of **external transferring** applicants (from other universities) must be submitted by the latest **31 August**, and all academic records of external transferring applicants are verified.
- Step 8** **Merit Point Scores (MPS)** are calculated for all applicants based on academic score (80%), and the value-added (VSVAF/VNVAF) score (20%).
- Step 9** Applicants are ranked based on the MPS within each category, and selection based on the number of available spaces per category takes place. In the case of school leavers in the NSC/IEB schooling systems, this represents the **first round of selection**.
- Step 10** Applicants who are conditionally admitted, or have been admitted, are **informed by 30 September**.
- Step 11** Successful applicants have to log onto the UP Student Portal and **accept/decline the offer**.
- Step 12** Unsuccessful applicants in categories A3, B, C or D that are close to the cut-off level for selection are placed on the **waiting list** in categories where cancellations might occur. Unsuccessful applicants in categories A3, B, C or D that are not informed that they are on the waiting list must not expect to be placed during the current enrolment year and should consider other options. Unsuccessful South African school leavers in Category A1 are not placed on a waiting list at this point but are automatically transferred to the second round of selection in January (Category A2).
- Step 13** When places become available in categories A3, B, C or D due to cancellation or forfeiture, they are periodically offered to candidates that have been placed on the waiting list on the original ranked selection list. This process may continue until the end of the University of Pretoria's orientation week.
- Step 14** The final admission of conditionally admitted applicants is **confirmed by no later than seven days after the release of the NSC/IEB results**. Successful applicants that have forfeited their placement are informed of their forfeiture.
- Step 15** Places must be taken up by the end of the first week after the commencement of lectures.

#### The second round selection process (for South African NSC/IEB school leavers):

- Step 1** All unsuccessful applicants in Category A1, as well as all successful applicants in Category A1 that have forfeited their placement, are **automatically transferred to Category A2** for the second round of selection in January. No new applications will be considered, and no additions to the VSVAF/VNVAF will be possible.
- Step 2** Once all final NSC/IEB results have been obtained, the Merit Point Scores (MPS) are re-calculated for Category A2 using final schooling results.
- Step 3** Applicants are ranked based on the MPS within Category A2, and the **second round of selection** takes place based on the number of available spaces after cancellations and forfeitures are considered.
- Step 4** Applicants who have been admitted in Category A2 are **informed before the start of the University of Pretoria orientation programme**.
- Step 5** Successful applicants have to log onto the UP Student Portal and **accept/decline the offer**.
- Step 6** Places must be taken up by the end of the first week after the commencement of lectures.

#### Unsuccessful applicants may enquire about the following information regarding their application:

- The category in which the applicant was considered;
- The total number of applicants that were considered in that category;
- The number of applicants that were admitted or conditionally admitted and the number that were placed on the waiting list;
- The position of the applicant on the ranked list in that category;
- The calculated value (/80) of the academic component of the Merit Point Score (MPS);
- Whether the VSVAF/VNVAF score was correctly recorded;
- Whether the VSVAF/VNVAF score was validated.

**The Admissions Committee's findings are final.**

## Notes





2025



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