



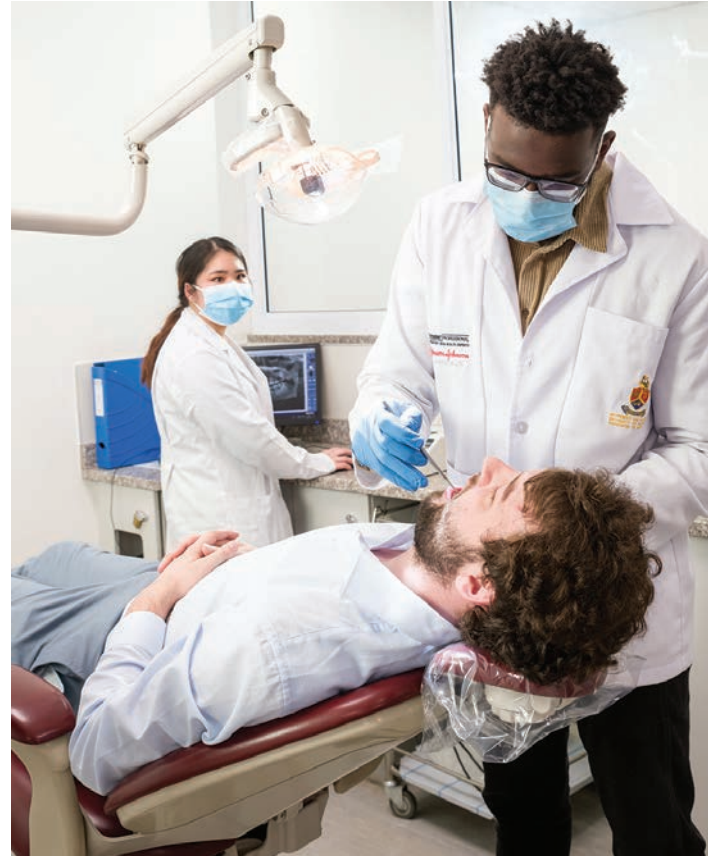
Make today matter

The School of Dentistry at the University of Pretoria is widely recognised—both nationally and internationally for the quality of its training, research and patient care, as well as for its involvement in community-based projects. The typical work-day of a dentist is spent diagnosing, preventing and treating diseases of the mouth and teeth. This includes the removal or repair of carious teeth, the replacement of absent teeth by means of fixed crown and bridge or dentures, and the treatment of diseases of the gums. Dentists are also responsible for surgical intervention in the mouth, the alignment of irregular teeth, alleviation of pain, improvement of aesthetics, root canal treatment and the planning of dental treatment in consultation with their patients.

Selection

- Seventy (70) first-year students are selected annually.
- First choice candidates will be considered and second choice candidates may be considered in certain categories.
- Conditional selection is based on the final Grade 11 results of the two categories (Open and Designated Group) as indicated under *Faculty-specific admission regulations* on page 2 in this brochure.
- Candidates must also comply with the minimum admission requirements as indicated in the table on the next page.
- Furthermore, candidates are expected to maintain or improve their Grade 11 averages (based on which they were conditionally selected) in the final school examination and ensure that the MPS does not drop by more than five points.

Please note: The mid-year selection for the Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree in the Faculty of Health Sciences will be discontinued in 2025. Similarly, the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences will discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences registration option with effect from 2025. Applicants may select a relevant Bachelor of Science degree in the field of biological sciences or another programme offered in the Faculty of Health Sciences as a second-choice option. For information on programmes offered by these faculties, refer to www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > faculty brochures.



What does the programme entail?

To keep pace with the requirements of modern tertiary education, the School of Dentistry follows a curriculum that is problem-based, student-oriented and directed at the community, with vertical and horizontal integration of subjects.

The degree in dentistry requires five years of full-time study, followed by one year of compulsory community service. Students get first-hand exposure to clinical dentistry from the second semester of the first year of study and participate in extensive clinical training from the third year onward through simulation and actual work on patients.



What makes this programme unique?

The programme is accredited by HPCSA. The programme is unique through early clinical exposure, integration and community exposure, forming golden threads throughout the curriculum. The programme focuses on developing clinical reasoning skills and so-called “soft skills”, including relational communication skills through case-based learning and role play.



Who is the ideal candidate?

This programme is ideal for very driven and hardworking individuals who love working with people, are detail-oriented, love to work with their hands and technology, and want to make a difference to communities in need. An interest in the natural sciences, biology and research is a prerequisite.



Which companies employ our graduates?

Employment opportunities for dentists exist in private practice, in the South African National Defence Force, in public hospitals and clinics, in healthcare organisations and academic institutions.



Structure of the programme

The early part of the programme contains core modules focusing on human biology complemented by modules that address relevant aspects of social sciences. The students are introduced to the clinical setting from year two by assisting the senior dental students in the clinical wards. Clinical Dentistry modules start in year three, which includes preclinical skills training. Years four and five contain mainly clinical modules and a focus on Dental Practice Management.



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'My experience in dentistry has been a wonderful one despite all the challenges. The journey has been full of exciting moments as well as difficult and challenging ones; however, all of these trying times have developed me into a better student.'

As a dentistry student at the University of Pretoria, your highly qualified lecturers, technicians, and supervisors will provide you with all the necessary support to thrive. Having supportive classmates pushes me to become better and better every day. Above all, interacting with different patients from different spheres of the world has taught me to appreciate the art of dentistry and the importance of treating everyone with the best care possible.'

Hluvuko Rivombo – Bachelor of Dental Surgery



'My experience in the School of Dentistry at the University of Pretoria has been a journey filled with positivity and growth. The school offers state-of-the-art technology, allowing the students to be provided with top-quality education and training. This allows us as students to treat our patients holistically, providing quality care. In addition, we are taught to provide patient-centred care, thereby developing skills of interaction and empathy. My participation in the School of Dentistry through my involvement as a tutor for Oral Biology for the second-year dentistry students allowed me to develop an array of different skills, which I will be able to use for life.'

I also had the opportunity to develop my leadership skills by being part of the Dental House Committee, known as 'Tuks Dental Life', by serving in the role of first-year guardian. This allowed me to develop the skills necessary to form part of the South African Dental Students' Association, which furthermore provided me with the opportunity to represent the university and the committee at the International Association of Dental Students African Summit in Egypt in July 2024. This journey would not have been possible without the skilful and approachable lecturers and the top-class facilities that the School of Dentistry at the University of Pretoria offers.'

Aiden Schlome – Bachelor of Dental Surgery

Minimum admission requirements

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2026			
	Achievement level			APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	
School of Dentistry				
Bachelor of Dental Surgery [5 years]	5	6	5	35

For advice on a second-choice programme, please consult a Student Advisor. To make an appointment, send an email to carol.bosch@up.ac.za.

Selection is based on a candidates' final Grade 11 examination results.

Careers: Dentists, specialists, academics and researchers

Email healthsciences@up.ac.za



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Health Sciences

Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe
Lefapha la Disaense tša Maphelo

Minimum requirements for
applicants with a school
leaving certificate not issued
by Umalusi (South Africa)



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Refer to the International undergraduate prospectus at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission Information or [click here](#) for more information.

- The closing date for applications for programmes in this faculty is 30 June.
- Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into a programme.

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES Programmes	Minimum requirements for 2026									
	Achievement level									
	Compulsory subjects	GCSE #		HIGCSE NSSC HL	AS Level	A Level	IB		KOMBI ABITUR	KCSE
		The qualifications in the two columns below will be considered only for conditional admission. If final AS and/or A levels have been completed, these two columns will not apply. It can also not be used for final admission and/ or registration.			GCE CIE NSSC AS	GCE CIE CGCE UACE WAEC ZGCE	IB SL	IB HL		
CIE	UK	GCE CIE NSSC OL CGCE UCE NECO WAEC WASSCE ZGCE								
Bachelor of Dental Surgery	English	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery**	Mathematics	B	5	2	B	D	5	4	70-79%	B+
[Also referred to as MBChB]	Physics	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
	Chemistry	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Oral Hygiene										
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Physiotherapy	Mathematics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Radiography in Diagnostics	Physics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Dietetics	Chemistry	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Sports Science	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	Mathematics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	Physics/	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Clinical Medical Practice	Chemistry	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
[Also referred to as BCMP]	combination or Biology*									
Bachelor of Nursing Science	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	Mathematics	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
	Biology	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+

English must be on the A and/or AS Level for final admission before registration.

* A PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY combination, or BIOLOGY and another subject on the A or AS Level

** Applicants who are not South African citizens and come from countries that have medical schools will not be considered for placement in the Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery programme [also referred to as MBChB], except where intergovernmental agreements are in place.