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Selection

- Three hundred (300) first-year students are selected annually.
- First-choice and second-choice applicants are considered.
- The University considers both school leavers and applicants who have already studied at tertiary institutions.
- Compliance with the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery programme.
- Conditional selection is based on final Grade 11 results.
- Candidates must maintain their Grade 11 averages (in terms of which they were conditionally selected) in the final school examination and ensure that their MPS does not drop by more than five points.
- The conditional selection of candidates is made strictly according to the merit list compiled for the two categories (Open and Designated Group). The categories are as follows:
 - Open category: All applicants including applicants from the Designated Group compete first in the Open category and then in the Designated Group category if unsuccessful in the Open category
 - Designated Group category: (South African Black or South African Coloured candidate)

Please note: The mid-year selection for the Bachelor of Medicine and 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.



Who is the ideal candidate?

Medicine is not only a profession—it is a calling. Prospective students, therefore, have to be prepared to serve humanity in all its facets. The medical profession demands high ethical standards in practice, and the career makes heavy physical and mental demands on practitioners. The ideal candidate should be disciplined, a problem solver, critical thinker, socially responsible, culturally competent and compassionate.



What does the programme entail?

To register as a medical practitioner, a student has to obtain a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery degree, followed by a two-year internship and one year of community service. In the medical profession, the health of a patient is of vital importance.

Patients are treated to restore their health. Special programmes are developed to prevent the spread of diseases and/or infections in the community.

The promotion of a healthy lifestyle is also an essential function of medical doctors.

- Community engagement:** The curriculum is compiled from the viewpoint that training should take place through service delivery. In this context, the Faculty provides a comprehensive service to the broader community through several outreach programmes. Students are already involved in these programmes during their undergraduate studies. The Daspoort Clinic in Pretoria is an example of a place that serves as a service training platform where the students can work.
- Research:** Advances in medical science depend on active research in the various fields of specialisation. This is why undergraduate and postgraduate student training in a research environment promotes an inquiry-based approach to learning and skills for carrying out research.

Duration of the programme

- Year 1 to the middle of year 5:** Theoretical, practical and clinical training in the medical disciplines
- Second half of year 5 and year 6:** Student internship, which is patient-centred and during which clinical training takes place in hospitals and clinics. This is followed by two years of internship with clinical service under supervision in accredited hospitals throughout the country and a compulsory year of community service. These three years are not part of the university training.



Career opportunities

The Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery degree allows graduates to register as medical practitioners once they have completed their internship (two years) and community service (one year). After that, they may practise as general practitioners (medical doctors) in hospitals or private general practice, carry out research, and/or teach undergraduates. Students may work in SANDF, work in research institutes, pharmaceutical companies or old age homes.

Further postgraduate study is required to become a specialist. Specialists can work in hospitals and/or private practices or follow a career in academic medicine. This involves clinical practice, teaching and research.

Areas of specialisation: Anaesthetist, Cardiologist, Clinical radiologist, General practice doctor, Hospital doctor, Neurologist, Ophthalmologist, Pathologist, Psychiatrist and Surgeon.



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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Faculty of Health Sciences

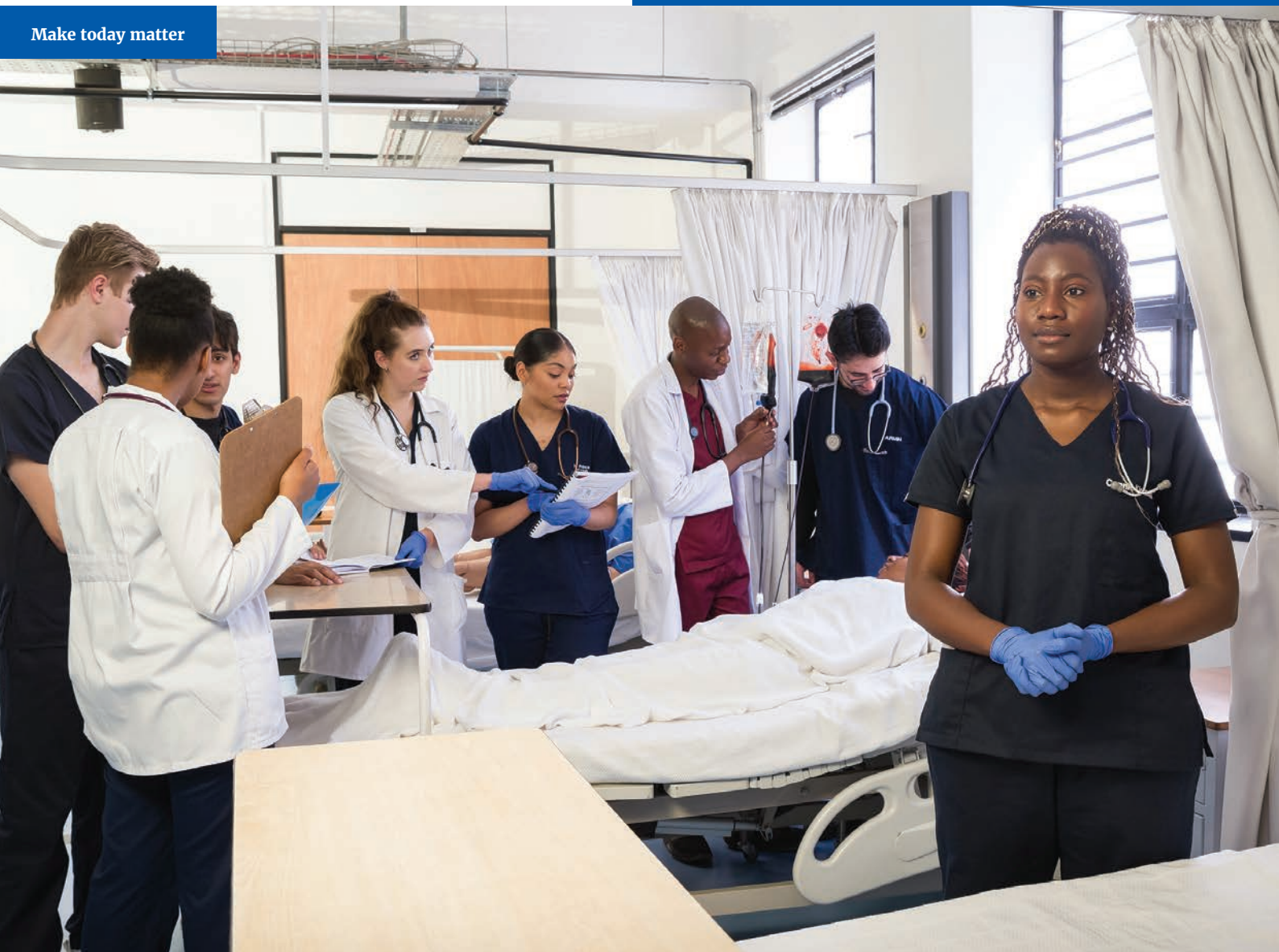
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Lefapha la Disaense tša Maphelo

Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery

(continued)



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What makes this programme unique?

The University of Pretoria's internationally comparable, problem-oriented and outcomes-based training programme is accredited by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), and the high standard of training is recognised locally and internationally. Exchange agreements have been concluded between the School of Medicine and similar faculties at universities abroad.

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 Medicine				
Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery [6 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: General medical practitioners, specialists (after postgraduate training)

Email healthsciences@up.ac.za



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(continued)



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‘Looking back at the beginning of my journey with the University of Pretoria, it takes me to the end of my Matric year when I returned from proudly representing South Africa at the 2019 Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships. At that time, I was riding high on my achievement, but the weight of university acceptance loomed over me with the impending announcement of my results the following year. Much was riding on those marks, and uncertainty filled my mind. However, just when I thought my luck was running out, an email arrived from the University of Pretoria that changed everything. I was ecstatic to learn that I had been awarded the Vice Chancellor’s Discretionary Merit Award, which not only relieved my concerns but also empowered me to pursue my lifelong aspiration of saving lives and becoming a remarkable doctor.

During my time at UP, I have soared to new heights. The Faculty of Health Sciences has provided me with an exceptional education, equipping me with practical knowledge that I believe is unparalleled in the country. As a tutor in our hands-on skills lab, I have acquired the fundamental skills every doctor needs to excel in the real world. Additionally, my involvement in the Tuks Student Surgical Society Committee has allowed me to participate in workshops and contribute to their organisation, serving as a stepping stone not only for me but also for many others aspiring to become future surgeons. One of the most fulfilling aspects of the Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery curriculum for me has been the invaluable time spent in hospitals, where I have gained hands-on experience working with patients and learned to approach them with sincerity and compassion.

Just when I thought the roller coaster ride was coming to an end, an extraordinary opportunity knocked on my door. I was granted a once-in-a-lifetime chance to embark on a practical elective in Tromsø, Norway, where I had the privilege of learning from doctors in a first-world country. Experiencing the ethereal beauty of the northern lights and making my first snow angel are memories that will forever hold a special place in my heart, and I am eternally grateful to the University for making it possible.

Katie Ledecky, Olympic Gold medalist, once said, “Set goals that, when you set them, you think they’re impossible.” Today, I stand as a living testament to the truth of those words. Through hard work and unwavering determination, I have achieved a dream I never thought possible—I represented my country at the 2023 Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships in Windsor, Canada. The guidance and support of Tuks Lifesaving and the University of Pretoria have armed me with the skills, knowledge, and expertise necessary to realise and surpass my dreams. I will forever be grateful that I chose UP, as they have helped me spread my wings and soar to greater heights.’

Kian du Toit – Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery



‘It has always been my childhood dream to become a doctor, and the decision to study at UP has been the best one for me personally. I have had to push myself academically to keep up with rigorous standards, and I have grown to become an empathetic clinician by observing the bedside manner of senior doctors.

Being in healthcare comes with unique challenges, and I have learned to balance patient care while prioritising my own mental health. UP has so many societies and clubs to offer, and participation in these allowed me to hone invaluable leadership skills. Moreover, the relationships I’ve built are truly lifelong and cherished. Merely using the word “friendship” does not do justice to describe the strength of the bonds I’ve made. After six years of studying, I can say that UP has given me the confidence to practice as a humane and competent doctor.’

Mayuri Ramnarain – Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery



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Faculty of Health Sciences

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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 AS	GCE CIE CGCE UACE WAEC ZGCE	IB SL	IB HL	KOMBI ABITUR	KCSE			
Bachelor of Dental Surgery	English	C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery** [Also referred to as MBChB]	Mathematics	B	5	2	B	D	5	4	70-79%	B+
	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/ Chemistry	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Clinical Medical Practice [Also referred to as BCMP]	combination or Biology*	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
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.