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Physiotherapy is a healthcare profession that aims to restore or promote the normal physical functioning of the individual and rehabilitate individuals with injuries and those living with disabilities. Training is evidence and outcome-based. Physiotherapy students are exposed to a wide variety of patients, where they can use their examination and problem-solving skills to make a significant contribution to the health status of any patient. Physiotherapists who have qualified at the University of Pretoria are in demand in all sectors of healthcare worldwide.

The Bachelor of Physiotherapy programme requires four years of full-time study. Students are trained in physiotherapy in various areas, treating musculoskeletal, neurological, respiratory problems, and sports injuries. Training includes work in the field of paediatrics and communities. Musculoskeletal and sports therapies are used to treat problems affecting the vertebral and peripheral joints. Neurological therapy involves rehabilitation principles used to treat different conditions and diseases affecting the brain and spinal cord, and respiratory and cardiac therapy improves lung function and exercise tolerance. Students are also taught how to manage congenital and acquired paediatric conditions. Particular emphasis is placed on community education and empowerment concerning health-related challenges.

The modalities taught in the four-year degree programme include manual therapy, soft-tissue mobilisations, electrotherapy, hydrotherapy and exercise therapy. Rehabilitation is a primary focus in all areas of physiotherapy practice.

### Selection

- Sixty (60) students are selected annually.
- Only first-choice applicants are considered. Applicants in the designated categories who indicated the programme as their second choice will be considered once all the first-choice candidates have been placed.
- 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 provided on page 3.
- Candidates must maintain their Grade 11 averages (in terms of which they were conditionally selected) in the final school examination and ensure that the MPS does not drop by more than five points.



### Structure of the programme

#### Core modules

Physiotherapy year modules from years 1 to 4 involving techniques, modalities and application of musculoskeletal, neurology and cardio-respiratory conditions. Community integrated leadership in the various areas of Physiotherapy is also added.

#### Postgraduate studies

Master's and Doctorates must be specialised in the student's area of interest and entail a full thesis degree.



### What does the programme entail?

The four years of study consist of theoretical, practical and clinical training in basic medical sciences and physiotherapy. An additional community service year, which does not form part of the university training, is compulsory.

- **Clinical training:** Undergraduate student training takes place in private and government hospitals in Pretoria. Special schools and the Sports Centre based at the University of Pretoria are also used. Community-based training of undergraduate students occurs in Mamelodi, Hammanskraal, Daspoort and Eersterust, and at various homes for the aged in Pretoria.
- **Community service:** An informed community is a healthy community. Consequently, much time is spent instructing patients and those who care for them. Patients are also taught to monitor their own health and to be physically active. Community-based training of undergraduate students occurs in Mamelodi, Hammanskraal, Daspoort and Eersterust, at various homes for the aged in Pretoria, and the Sports Centre of the University of Pretoria.
- **Research:** A proactive research environment enjoys high priority at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and undergraduate students are introduced to the research process under the guidance of staff members.



### Who is the ideal candidate?

Ideal candidates include those who have problem-solving skills and enjoy evidence-based practice. A humble, hardworking people's person who enjoys working with the sick, elderly and young will succeed in this career. The Bachelor of Physiotherapy enables the student to specialise in a particular area or work in all facets of the profession.





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### Career opportunities

Employment opportunities for physiotherapists are available in hospitals, schools for children with special needs, mining clinics, industrial clinics and hospitals. Opportunities also exist in private practices, the South African National Defence Force, homes for the aged, local government bodies (municipal clinics), corporate companies, sports centres, and sports teams. Should you undertake postgraduate studies, you could also consider a career in research or academia.



‘Studying physiotherapy at UP has given me the opportunity to see how privileged I am to be able to learn from some of the most respected physiotherapists in South Africa. Before I started studying physiotherapy, I had no idea that there were so many different specialities to go into.

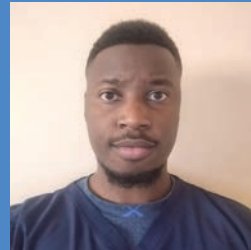
The vast exposure to these different specialities has allowed me to find my own passion within the field. The world is your oyster with this level of education. UP offers a comprehensive physiotherapy programme, where cutting-edge research and hands-on clinical experience prepare you to excel in a dynamic healthcare field. The lecturers are so well organised, and their knowledge is something I aspire to have one day as well. In this faculty, you do not feel like just a number; you are family and part of a programme producing top-class physiotherapists. I look forward to seeing all this faculty will reach in the years ahead.’

**Kaylin du Toit** – Bachelor of Physiotherapy



### Which companies employ our graduates?

Private and government hospitals and private practices, schools for special needs, nursing homes, corporate businesses, research facilities and Universities.



‘In my four years of studying physiotherapy, I have enjoyed working clinically. I realised just how vast physiotherapy is during my exposure to different clinical settings and various conditions.

Although the immense exposure was intimidating, I am happy that my lecturers and supervisors were with me every step of the way. The feeling of seeing a patient regain hope in their eyes as they become better cannot be put into words, especially when they see the value of physiotherapy in facilitating the process of making their goals a reality. It is fulfilling to see someone progress to restore their previous level of function or go further beyond to explore their untapped potential. I realised how challenging this course is; however, it is through that challenge that I developed resilience and perseverance to overcome setbacks.

Physiotherapy taught me that progress may not always be linear, but continuous effort makes all the difference in improving function. I am honoured to know that physiotherapy is more than just a profession; it is a way to heal with your hands.’

**Kgame Jeremiah Matlala** – Bachelor of Physiotherapy

### 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	
<b>School of Healthcare Sciences</b>				
<b>Bachelor of Physiotherapy</b> [4 years]	4	4	4	30

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:** Physiotherapists, academics and researchers

**Head of Department:** Prof Carel Viljoen | **Tel** +27 (0)12 356 3231 | **Email** carel.viljoen@up.ac.za or healthsciences@up.ac.za  
**First-year coordinator:** Miss P Naidoo | **Tel** +27 (0)12 356 3234 | **Email** pooveshni.naidoo@up.ac.za or 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](http://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							
IGCSE LGCSE BGCSE EGCSE  O Level NSSC OL CGCE UCE NECO WAEC WASSCE ZGCE		England Wales Northern Ireland Pearson Edexcel GCSE								
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.