

## Faculty of Health Sciences Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BChD)

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 crown dentures, and bridge therapy, 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.
- Only first-choice applicants are considered.
- Conditional selection is based on the final Grade 11 results of the two categories (Open and Designated Group) as indicated in the faculty brochure available at [www.up.ac.za/programmes](http://www.up.ac.za/programmes) > Undergraduate > Faculty brochures
- 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 APS does not drop by more than two points.

### Midyear intake from BSc to BChD

A limited number of places are reserved for new first-year students in the second semester of year one. The selection for the midyear intake is based on merit in the note. Learners who apply in their final school year and were not selected for BChD, and who wish to apply for admission to the BChD in the second semester may register for any BSc biological sciences programme with the following modules: Chemistry (CMY 151), Physics (PHY 131), Molecular and Cell Biology, Science and Worldviews (FIL 155), People and their Environment (MGW 112) and Medical Terminology (MTL 180).

**Note:** To be eligible for the midyear selection, students must have an APS of at least 35 and a minimum of 70% for Mathematics in their final NSC or equivalent examination. Only first-year registered BSc students at UP with no previous tertiary (University, University of Technology or College) training will be considered. Students enrolled for the BSc Extended programme – Biological and Agricultural Sciences, do not qualify to apply for the midyear intake. Admission is subject to a selection process, and complying with the requirements does not guarantee admission.



### 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.



### 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.



## 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.



‘My experience studying dentistry so far has been very challenging, but at the same time, incredibly rewarding. Studying dentistry requires a lot of hard work and dedication, but it is definitely worth it. Studying at UP lets you have a hands-on experience

where the theory taught is linked practically. The doctors and lecturers here are excellent in guiding each student in becoming the best clinician they can possibly be one day.

Some of my fondest memories thus far have been doing community outreach, assisting other dental students in the hospital, starting to learn all the preclinical skills in preparation for treating patients next year, and of course, all the friends I have made throughout the years.

Dentistry has allowed me to grow as a person in many facets of life, and I cannot wait to complete my degree in the future and change my patients’ lives.’

**Bela Gomez – Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BChD)**



‘My name is Noxolo Ntutu, and I’m a final year BChD student. Being a dentistry student has been far more challenging than what I imagined it to be, but we all know that nothing worth having comes easy! Having the support and guidance of the lecturers and

clinical staff really did equip me to tackle both my academics and clinics to the best of my ability.

Being part of such a well-structured and people-centred institution has refined my work ethic and made me realise that dentistry goes beyond extracting a painful tooth; it is about holistically treating patients, being compassionate and always putting the patients’ needs first. As a young future dentist, I feel empowered to go into the world and deliver healthcare services of ‘private practice calibre’ to the general public.’

**Noxolo Ntutu – Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BChD)**

## Minimum admission requirements for NSC/IEB

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2023			
	Achievement level			APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	
<b>School of Dentistry</b>				
<b>Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BChD)</b> [5 years] Closing date: 30 June	5	6	5	35

The suggested second-choice programme is any BSc biological sciences programme. Refer to the faculty brochure for more information, available at [www.up.ac.za/programmes](http://www.up.ac.za/programmes).  
Selection is based on a candidates’ final Grade 11 examination results.  
**Careers:** Dentists, specialists, academics and researchers

## Minimum admission requirements for qualifications other than the NSC/IEB

For qualifications not indicated in the table below, refer to the conversion table in the brochure: 2023 Undergraduate programme information - 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

Programme	Minimum requirements for 2023									
	Achievement level									
	Compulsory subjects	IGCSE/ LGCSE/ BGCSE/ SGCSE/ GCSE/ NSSC OL/ O Level = Gr 11 #	AS Level	IB SL	IB HL	HIGCSE/ NSSC HL	KOMBI ABITUR	CGCE UCE NECO WAEC ZIMSEC O Level = Gr 11#	CGCE UACE WAEC ZIMSEC A Level	KCSE
Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BChD) Will only be considered as a first study choice.	English Mathematics Physics Chemistry	C B C C	C B C C	4 5 4 4	3 4 3 3	3 2 3 3	60–69% 70–79% 60–69% 60–69%	C B C C	E D E E	B+ A- B+ B+

# This level cannot be used for final admission alone. The compulsory subject requirements as indicated in the above table must be on A Level and/or AS Level for final admission before registration. Provisional selection is based on six IGCSE subjects. Final admission is based on two IGCSE and four A Level or AS Level subjects. The compulsory subjects as indicated in the above table, must be on A Level or AS Level.



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