Higher Certificate in Sports Sciences

The Higher Certificate in Sports Sciences aims to develop sports coaches and administrators who can function successfully in an interdisciplinary environment. This qualification aims to equip students with the applied competencies that are required by individuals who work in education settings where they provide physical education through sports programmes and promote principles of good management in sports in order to improve the performance of athletes and sports teams.

The qualification further provides students with basic introductory knowledge and cognitive and conceptual tools, and practical techniques required for higher education studies in sports sciences and education.

Who are the ideal candidates?

- The ideal candidates hold certificates that the University deems to be equivalent to the National Senior Certificate with an APS of 20.
- Students who are passionate about sports and physical education excel in this programme.
- It is the ideal programme for student athletes and professional sportspeople who want to further their studies while competing in sporting events.

What makes this programme unique?

Many young people who have proven sports talents and the ability to learn at an advanced level, but do not meet the entry requirements for study at a diploma or degree level, develop those talents into learning and career pathways. Very few schools in South Africa have qualified sports teachers. The Higher Certificate is needed to provide an entry point into higher education training as the first step to possible career pathways in sports coaching, administration or teaching.

Career opportunities

Students who have completed this qualification will have the knowledge, skills and values related to the scope of physical education, sports coaching and sports management required to develop sporting codes for extramural programmes. This will prepare them for employment as trainers and coaches in various sporting codes in both the private and public sectors, and in the context of community sports clubs, school sports and sports coaching.

Structure of programme

Core modules
- Life orientation 150 (JLO 150)
- Literacies in education 150 (JLZ 150)
- Literacies in education 151 (JLZ 151)
- Human movement studies and sport management 114 (JMB 114)
- Human movement studies and sport management 116 (JMB 116)
- Human movement studies and sport management 125 (JMB 125)
- Sports practical (JRC 150)
- Foundations of recreation and sports management 111 (JRM 111)
- Sports injuries 141 (JXE 141)
- Fundamental nutrition 143 (JXE 143)
- Exercise and training principles 151 (JXE 151)
- Coaching professionalism 151 (JXP 151)

Minimum admission requirements

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC/IEB for 2025	
	Achievement level	APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	
Higher Certificate in Sports Sciences [1 year]	4	20

Selection process:
- Applicants who indicate the Higher Certificate in Sports Sciences as their first- or second-choice will be considered.
- All applicants will be considered by the Student Administration of the Faculty based on the academic admission requirements.
- Applicants who meet the academic requirements will then be further considered for the different sports codes in deliberation with TuksSport, according to their sports achievements.
- Students who have been nominated by an official sports club of the University will enjoy preference for selection.
- Applicants who obtained Diploma Studies endorsement for the NSC or equivalent qualification, may be considered for admission to the Bachelor of Education in Senior Phase and Further Education and Training (FET) Teaching degree (09133031), with specialisation in the elective combination of Human Movement Studies and Sports Management, if they successfully complete the Higher Certificate in Sports Sciences with a cumulative weighted average of at least 70% (excluding JRC 150 Sports Practical) (for the contact programme)

Careers: Sports coaching, sports and exercise industry

Faculty of Education
Fakulteit Opvoedkunde
Lefapha la Thuto

UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

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

Make today matter

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 EDUCATION Programmes	Compulsory subjects	GCSE # CIE IGCSE LGCSE BGCSE SGCSE O Level NSSC OL CGCE UCE NECO WAEC ZIMSEC	GCSE # UK England Wales Northern Ireland	HIGCSE NSSC HL	AS Level GCE CIE NSSC AS	A Level GCE CIE CGCE UACE WAEC ZIMSEC	IB IB SL	IB IB HL	KOMBI ABITUR	KCSE
Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase Teaching [Grade R to Grade 3]	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Education in Intermediate Phase Teaching [Grades 4 to 6]	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Education in Senior Phase and Further Education and Training (FET) Teaching [Grades 7 to 12]—General	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Bachelor of Education in Senior Phase and Further Education and Training (FET) Teaching [Grades 7 to 12]—Physical Sciences or Life Sciences option	English Mathematics Physics Chemistry or Biology*	D C C C	3 4 4 4	3 3 3 3	D C C C	E E E E	2 4 4 4	2 3 3 3	50-59% 60-69% 60-69% 60-69%	C+ B B B
Higher Certificate in Sports Sciences	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+
Higher Certificate in Sports Sciences [part-time online]	English	D	3	3	D	E	2	2	50-59%	C+

Minimum requirements for 2025 — Achievement level

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.

Only English with at least a C symbol on this level can be considered for final admission.
* Offer both PHYSICS and CHEMISTRY or BIOLOGY and another subject on A Level or AS Level