

BSc in Microbiology

- [University of Pretoria](#)
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- BSc in Microbiology

Microbiology is the study of organisms that cannot be seen with the naked eye, such as bacteria, fungi, algae and viruses. Essentially, the microbiology study programme, with its focus on the structure, function and classification of microbial species, is the gateway to the fascinating microbial world.

Students enrolled for this degree will be exposed to a wealth of tools and theoretical information, which can be applied to exploit and control microbial activities for improving industrial and agricultural processes, as well as for improving the lives of animals, humans and plants in the ecosystem.

In microbiology, students learn about the different types of microbes which, even though invisible to the naked eye, represent the most abundant life forms on earth. It is believed that many microbes have not yet been discovered, and others are well adapted to survive in extreme conditions (eg in hydrothermal vents) that resemble conditions believed to have been prevalent when life began on earth billions of years ago. Bachelor of Science in Microbiology is also one of only a few degree programmes that unites a diverse group of individuals (eg immunologists, geneticists, bioinformaticians, computational biologists, environmental scientists, etc) under one umbrella.

Aspiring microbiologists should have a solid background in science and are expected to demonstrate curiosity about how biological systems function in their environments. Microbiology overlaps with areas such as botany, chemistry, zoology, physiology, genetics, medicine, nutrition and environmental sciences.

Candidates recognise that the field of microbiology has evolved, and continues to evolve, to cut across scientific disciplines, and understand that microbes impact every aspect of life on earth.

Since the field of microbiology has many branches, graduates can follow various careers in industry or in academia, where they can contribute to increasing scientific knowledge, or they can establish their own businesses.

For more information, please consult the Faculty webpage.

Career Opportunities

Microbiologists can pursue a variety of careers involving activities ranging from practical application to basic research. Career opportunities are available in the food, dairy, beer, wine, baker's yeast and fermentation industries, and at mines where they will be involved in corrosion control. Graduates can also follow careers in medical or veterinary microbiology, microbial genomics and ecology or as researchers at organisations such as the CSIR, MRC or ARC, or lecturers and researchers at academic institutions.

Programme Code

02133404

Closing Dates

- **SA** - 30/06/2025
 - **Non-SA** - 30/06/2025
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Admission Requirements

Important information for all prospective students for 2026

The admission requirements below apply to all who apply for admission to the University of Pretoria with a **National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Independent Examination Board (IEB) qualifications**. [Click here](#) for this Faculty Brochure.

Minimum requirements

Achievement level			
English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	APS
NSC/IEB	NSC/IEB	NSC/IEB	

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Life Orientation is excluded when calculating the APS.

Applicants currently in Grade 12 must apply with their final Grade 11 (or equivalent) results.

Applicants who have completed Grade 12 must apply with their final NSC or equivalent qualification results.

Please note that meeting the minimum academic requirements does not guarantee admission.

Successful candidates will be notified once admitted or conditionally admitted.

Unsuccessful candidates will be notified after 30 June.

Applicants should check their application status regularly on the UP Student Portal at [click here](#).

Applicants with qualifications other than the abovementioned should refer to the International undergraduate prospectus 2026: Applicants with a school leaving certificate not issued by Umalusi (South Africa), available at [click here](#).

International students: [Click here](#).

Transferring students

A transferring student is a student who, at the time of applying at the University of Pretoria (UP) is/was a registered student at another tertiary institution. A transferring student will be considered for admission based on NSC or equivalent qualification and previous academic performance. Students who have been dismissed from other institutions due to poor academic performance will not be considered for admission to UP.

Closing dates: Same as above.

Returning students

A returning student is a student who, at the time of application for a degree programme is/was a registered student at UP, and wants to transfer to another degree at UP. A returning student will be considered for admission based on NSC or equivalent qualification and previous academic performance.

Note:

- Students who have been excluded/dismissed from a faculty due to poor academic performance may be considered for admission to another programme at UP, as per faculty-specific requirements.
- Only ONE transfer between UP faculties and TWO transfers within a faculty will be allowed.

- Admission of returning students will always depend on the faculty concerned and the availability of space in the programmes for which they apply.

Closing date for applications from returning students

Unless capacity allows for an extension of the closing date, applications from returning students must be submitted before the end of August via your UP Student Centre.

Minimum duration of study

3 years, full-time

Faculty Notes

All modules will only be presented in English, which is the University's official language of tuition, communication and correspondence.

The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences is home to more than 6 500 undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Faculty presents degrees in fields ranging from the proverbial A to Z – from actuaries to zoologists, and consists of 13 departments.

All degree programmes are designed to develop problem-solving individuals who can easily adapt to changing circumstances and take the lead in their chosen fields of specialisation. The qualifications awarded are of world-class and provide access to a multitude of career opportunities for dynamic and creative people. According to the latest Times Higher Education World University Rankings the University has achieved new world rankings in Physical Sciences, a discipline which features strongly in NAS and also maintains excellent positions on the ISI Web of Science (WOS) field rankings in Plant and Animal Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, and Environment and Ecology Sciences.

In the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, we strive to continuously improve our high impact research and significantly address the national shortage of PhD graduates that respond to global and local challenges.

- **Disclaimer:** *This publication contains information about regulations and programmes of the*
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Enquiries about the programme

[Click Here](#)



How to apply



Online Application



Note: Also consult General Rules and Information on the Yearbook website for additional information.

Disclaimer: Due to the continuous restructuring of the Faculty and this website, some of the information displayed here may not fully reflect the most recent developments in the Faculty. Any discrepancies that are experienced may be taken up with Student Administration of the Faculty.