

Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing [BVetNurs]

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Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing

The Faculty of Veterinary Science endeavours to meet the veterinary nursing needs of the country and the region. The recruitment and selection process addresses an informed career choice, excellence, equity and geographic distribution. The full-time Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme is only offered by the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Pretoria and it is the only faculty of its kind in South Africa.

Veterinary nursing requires a dedicated and motivated person with a special interest in working with animals and their owners. The veterinary nurse is a member of a professional team that includes veterinarians and is expected to show a high degree of responsibility, organisational skills and patience. Self-discipline, compassion, honesty, dedication and a sense of humour are recommended attributes.

The programme is demanding and requires dedication and hard work. It is a career with long and often irregular hours. The ability to work with both people and animals is essential.

- The Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme requires three years of full-time study. The first and second years of the programme are devoted to didactic teaching and practical skills training.
- In the third (final) year of the programme students undergo work-integrated clinical training.
- The Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme consists of lectures, electronic learning opportunities, discussions, demonstrations, assignments, curricular community engagement activities, group work, practicals and clinical work. The latter is offered mainly in the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital and its community clinics and includes exposure to private practices and other facilities.
- Student support provided includes tutoring and academic support.
- Entry into the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme is highly competitive due to its increasing popularity and limited available spaces.
- Selection is based on academic merit.
- A graduate who successfully completed the programme will have received broad-based training in veterinary nursing. It is regarded to be at the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 7. A graduate can enter a postgraduate diploma in veterinary nursing which is at NQF level 8.

The Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme is accredited by the **South African Veterinary Council (SAVC)**.

The **SAVC** governs the ethics and standards of veterinary nursing education and practice in South Africa. All students must register with the Council at first registration in the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme, must maintain their registration annually and are subject to its rules. Registration with the SAVC is a prerequisite for practising as a veterinary nurse in South Africa.

Career Opportunities

- **Industries:** Employment in the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital and the pharmaceutical and animal feed industries.
- **Research:** Zoological gardens, game parks, laboratory animal units, rehabilitation centres, research centres, boarding establishments, organised agriculture, dairies and farming operations also offer gainful employment.
- **Private veterinary practice** that could range from urban to rural, mixed general or species-specific. The veterinary nurse assists with anaesthesia, operating theatre management, intensive care, radiography, laboratory analysis, animal patient care and nursing, disease prevention, administration and practice management.
- **State veterinary services:** Veterinary nurses are also employed in provincial and national government departments and animal welfare societies throughout South Africa.

More information regarding career opportunities for veterinary nurses can be found on the websites of the Veterinary Nursing Association of South Africa (VNASA) at [click here](#) and the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) at [click here](#).

Programme Code

08130006

Closing Dates

- **SA** – 31/05/2025
 - **Non-SA** – 31/05/2025
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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.

Enquiries: [click here](#)

Minimum requirements

Achievement level			
English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences or Life Sciences	APS
NSC/IEB	NSC/IEB	NSC/IEB	
4	4	4	28

For advice on a second-choice programme for Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing, please consult a Student Advisor. To make an appointment, send an email to carol.bosch@up.ac.za.

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.

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](#)

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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.

- 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 is the same as the above

Selection Process

Selection categories

School leavers

- A school leaver is someone who has never been registered in a tertiary education programme.
 - A valid NSC/IEB or equivalent qualification with admission for degree purposes.
 - Subject requirements and the required Admission Point Score (APS) as indicated under Admission Requirements. The APS is calculated from the achievement levels obtained in the six 20-credit subjects of the NSC.
 - Life Orientation is excluded when calculating the APS.
 - For applicants in the NSC or IEB schooling systems, conditional admission is based on Grade 11 final examination results, and final admission is based on maintaining a similar performance in the NSC/IEB final examinations.
 - For applicants from other schooling systems conditional admission is based on the final results of the
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year preceding the last year of schooling or equivalent, and final admission is based on submitting a certificate for admission to degree studies or complete or conditional exemption by USAf.

- School leaving applicants who are conditionally admitted based on their Grade 11 results will forfeit their placement if their Merit Point Score based on final NSC (or equivalent qualification) results is more than 5% lower than that based on final Grade 11 scores that resulted in selection.

Applicants with previous higher education exposure

- There is an opportunity for students with previous higher education experience to also apply for the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme.

Applicants who are not South African citizens

- A small number of students from countries other than South Africa (applicants who are not South African citizens) are admitted to the programme, including those from neighbouring Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries.
- If an applicant has multiple citizenships which includes South African citizenship, he/she will be considered as a South African applicant.
- Applicants who are accepted receive a letter of confirmation from the University, which will facilitate their application for a study permit.
- A valid study permit, obtained in the country of origin, is a prerequisite for registration.
- Applicants from countries other than South Africa (applicants who are not South African citizens) must comply with all UP and the Department of Home Affairs' regulations relating to students in this category.
- Please consult the International Cooperation Division's **Newcomer's Guide** for more information: [click here](#)

Conditional admission

- Conditionally admitted applicants forfeit their placement if they do not comply with the relevant conditions.

Only 50 students are admitted to the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing programme every year. The Faculty endeavours to meet the veterinary nursing needs of the country and the region.

The recruitment and selection process is therefore structured in such a way that it will address diversity, excellence, equity, gender and geographic distribution.

The procedure will be reviewed on an annual basis, but typically makes provision for the following categories of students:

- South African school-leavers enrolled for the NSC or IEB: first round of selection in July
- South African school-leavers enrolled for the NSC or IEB: second round of selection in January

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- South African school-leavers enrolled in other educational schooling systems (IGCSE/GCSE/NSSC OL/O level or HIGCSE/NSSC HL or A/AS level or IB Diploma or KOMBI ABITUR or CGCE/UCE/NECO/WAEC/ZIMSEC O LEVEL or CGCE/UACE/WAEC/ZIMSEC A Level or NCV)
 - Applicants with university exposure
 - Applicants with university exposure: graduates
 - School-leaving applicants who are not South African citizens
 - Applicants who are not South African citizens, but have had university exposure
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Minimum duration of study

3 years, full-time

Faculty Notes

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

The Faculty of Veterinary Science is unique in South Africa. It is the only institution responsible for training veterinarians and veterinary nurses. Our graduates and research programmes are vital in enhancing human and animal health, promoting biosecurity and welfare, and ensuring our production animals, wildlife and pets are safe and in good health.

The quality and scope of the Faculty's training is such that our graduates are able to enter postgraduate programmes at universities across the world and can practice in many countries without the need to write registration exams. The Faculty is locally relevant and passionate about meeting the needs of South Africa. This not only applies to commercial farming but also to primary animal healthcare, where veterinarians as well as veterinary nurses can assist rural communities and smallholder farmers.

- **Disclaimer:** *This publication contains information about regulations and programmes of the University of Pretoria. Amendments to or updating of the information may be effected from time to time without prior notification. The accuracy, correctness or validity of the information contained here is therefore not guaranteed by the University at any given time and is always subject to verification. The user is kindly requested to verify the correctness of the information with the University at all times. Failure to do so will not give rise to any claim or action of any nature against the University by any party whatsoever.*
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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.