

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

BA specialising in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (01130017)

Department Philosophy

Minimum duration of study 3 years

Total credits 434

NQF level 07

Programme information

The purpose of this programme is to provide students with an in-depth knowledge and analytical understanding of contemporary political and economic issues. All three disciplines – political science, philosophy, and economics – focus on the social world and social phenomena, each from a different perspective. Economics focuses on the production of goods (why, how, and what is produced) and the consequences of such production to society (who benefits). Political Science focuses on political processes and governance issues such as decision-making. Philosophy equips students with analytical reasoning skills necessary to understand and solve complex moral problems related to economic and political decision-making. The result of combining these perspectives is that students are equipped with an understanding of the moral issues influencing human agency in economic and political contexts. A PPE qualification is an internationally recognised ‘brand’, respected for its rigorous training, that immediately gives students entrance into a variety of careers related to economic or political policy making, from journalism to diplomatic service. This qualification will enable students, once they are employed in the public or private sector, to respond in a sensitive, rational, and innovative manner to moral problems and challenges within their politico-economic context.

Admission requirements

Important information for all prospective students for 2025

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	APS (Grade 11)	APS (NSC/IEB completed)



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* To retain admission, you must obtain an APS of at least 32 in the NSC.

* Students who are interested in the Bachelor of Arts specialising in Philosophy, Politics and Economics programme, but do not comply with the 5 required in Mathematics, but have an APS of 32, a 4 in Mathematics and a 5 in English, may be admitted to another degree programme for the first year. If they register for STK 113 and 123 in their first year of study and pass both with at least 60%, they will be allowed to apply for an internal transfer to the Bachelor of Arts specialising in Philosophy, Politics and Economics programme in their second year of study.

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.

Other programme-specific information

- The ALL modules are excluded due to the high AP Score (32) required.
- Students who consider doing an honours degree in Economics should consult the student administration of EMS to determine which additional modules they should include in their study programme in order to meet the entry requirements for BComHons in Economics.

Curriculum: Year 1

Minimum credits: 122

Elective modules: Year 1

It is compulsory that students also select, in addition to the subjects on the fixed curriculum, any TWO semester modules (one per semester) from the same discipline at year level 1 to the credit value of at least **20 credits** (if selected from Economic and Management Sciences) or **24 credits** (if selected from Humanities).

Statistics Modules

1. Students who achieved level 5 in Mathematics at Matric level:

- STK 110 and STC 122 are compulsory.
- Students are required to pass STK 110 at 60% in order to continue with STC 122.

2. Transferring students who achieved level 4 in Mathematics at Matric level and have passed STK 113 and 123 with 60% on each module:

- STK 121 and STC 122 are compulsory.
- Students are required to pass STK 121 at 60% in order to continue with STC 122.

Fundamental modules

[Academic information management 111](#) (AIM 111) - Credits: 4.00

[Academic information management 121](#) (AIM 121) - Credits: 4.00

[Academic orientation 101](#) (UPO 101) - Credits: 0.00

Core modules

[Economics 110](#) (EKN 110) - Credits: 10.00

[Economics 120](#) (EKN 120) - Credits: 10.00

[Philosophy 110](#) (FIL 110) - Credits: 12.00

[Philosophy 120](#) (FIL 120) - Credits: 12.00

[Politics 101](#) (PTO 101) - Credits: 24.00

[Statistics 122](#) (STC 122) - Credits: 13.00

[Statistics 110](#) (STK 110) - Credits: 13.00

[Statistics 121](#) (STK 121) - Credits: 13.00

Curriculum: Year 2

Minimum credits: 152

Students should choose ONE of the following two sequences of Economics modules in Year 2: EKN 214/234 or EKN 224/244.

Students should choose ONE of the following two sequences of Political Sciences modules in Year 2: IPL 210/220 or STL 210/220.

Core modules

[Economics 214](#) (EKN 214) - Credits: 16.00

[Economics 224](#) (EKN 224) - Credits: 16.00

[Economics 234](#) (EKN 234) - Credits: 16.00

[Economics 244](#) (EKN 244) - Credits: 16.00

[Contesting modernities 210](#) (FIL 210) - Credits: 20.00

[Philosophy in context 220](#) (FIL 220) - Credits: 20.00

[International relations theory and international organisation\(s\) 210](#) (IPL 210) - Credits: 20.00

[Foreign policy analysis and diplomacy 220](#) (IPL 220) - Credits: 20.00

[Statistics 210](#) (STK 210) - Credits: 20.00

[Statistics 220](#) (STK 220) - Credits: 20.00

[Political science 210](#) (STL 210) - Credits: 20.00

[Political science 220](#) (STL 220) - Credits: 20.00

Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 160

Students should choose ONE of the following two sequences of Political Sciences modules in Year 3: IPL 310/320 or STL 310/320.

Core modules

- Economics 310 (EKN 310) - Credits: 20.00
- Economics 320 (EKN 320) - Credits: 20.00
- Self and subjectivity 310 (FIL 310) - Credits: 30.00
- Philosophy in context 320 (FIL 320) - Credits: 30.00
- International political economy 310 (IPL 310) - Credits: 30.00
- Security and strategic studies 320 (IPL 320) - Credits: 30.00
- Political science 310 (STL 310) - Credits: 30.00
- Political science 320 (STL 320) - Credits: 30.00

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.