University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

BSc in Human Physiology 4-year programme (02131010)

Department	Natural and Agricultural Sciences Dean's Office
Minimum duration of study	4 years
Total credits	516
NQF level	07

Programme information

This is an extended BSc degree programme with a four-year curriculum that is only presented on a full-time basis. It is designed to enable students, who show academic potential, to obtain a BSc degree.

This programme is directed at a general formative education in the natural sciences. It provides the student with a broad academic basis to continue with postgraduate studies and prepares the student for active involvement in a wide variety of career possibilities.

1. Students who are admitted to one of the BSc four-year programmes register for one specific programme.
2. These programmes are followed by students who, as a result of exceptional circumstances, will benefit from an extended programme.
3. Students who do not comply with the normal three-year BSc entrance requirements for study in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, may nevertheless be admitted to the Faculty in one of the BSc four-year programmes. Generally, an extended programme means that the first study year is extended to take two years. The possibility of switching over to other faculties after one or two years in the four-year programmes exists. This depends on selection rules and other conditions stipulated by the other faculties.
4. Applications for admission to the BSc four-year programmes should be submitted in accordance with the UP applications process, with applications considered up to 30 June and in a second round in August/September. Details are obtainable from the Student Administration at the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.
5. The rules and regulations applicable to the mainstream study programmes apply mutatis mutandis to the BSc four-year programmes, with exceptions as indicated in the regulations pertaining to the BSc four-year programmes. For instance, students admitted into the BSc four-year programmes must have a National Senior Certificate with admission for degree purposes.

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**	**Physical Sciences**	**APS**
NSC/IEB	NSC/IEB	NSC/IEB	
58%	58%	58%	**30**

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.

Only students that have completed school in the last two years and have not studied at a tertiary institution will be considered for this programme.

Successful candidates will be notified once admitted or conditionally admitted.

Unsuccessful candidates will also be notified.

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 2025: Applicants with a school leaving certificate not issued by Umalusi (South Africa), available at click here.

International students: Click here.

Examinations and pass requirements

Academic promotion requirements
Students who do not show progress during the first semester of the first year will be referred to the Admissions Committee of the Faculty.
It is expected of students who register for the first year of the BSc four-year programmes to pass all the prescribed modules of the first year.

Progression requirement
The first year is foundational to the mainstream modules that follow; students will be limited to repeating two foundation modules during year 2 of study. Students may apply for internal transfers at the end of year 2. Not all mainstream programmes will be accessible; the Faculty's transfer guide will clearly outline all possibilities and the overarching objective will be that approved transfers will not involve adding an additional year of study.

Curriculum: Year 1

Minimum credits: 100

Fundamental = 20
Core = 80

Fundamental modules

Academic information management 111 (AIM 111) - Credits: 4.00
Academic information management 121 (AIM 121) - Credits: 4.00
Language, life and study skills 133 (LST 133) - Credits: 6.00
Language, life and study skills 143 (LST 143) - Credits: 6.00
Academic orientation 102 (UPO 102) - Credits: 0.00

Core modules

Foundational biology 137 (BIO 137) - Credits: 8.00
Foundational biology 147 (BIO 147) - Credits: 8.00
Foundational chemistry 137 (CMY 137) - Credits: 8.00
Foundational chemistry 147 (CMY 147) - Credits: 8.00
Foundational physics 137 (PHY 137) - Credits: 8.00
Foundational physics 147 (PHY 147) - Credits: 8.00
Foundational statistics 137 (STC 137) - Credits: 8.00
Foundational statistics 147 (STC 147) - Credits: 8.00
Foundational mathematics 137 (WTW 137) - Credits: 8.00
Foundational mathematics 147 (WTW 147) - Credits: 8.00

Curriculum: Year 2

Minimum credits: 128

Core = 128

Please note: ANA modules can only be taken by BSc (Medical Science) students.

Core modules

Biometry 120 (BME 120) - Credits: 16.00
Plants and society 161 (BOT 161) - Credits: 8.00
General chemistry 117 (CMY 117) - Credits: 16.00
General chemistry 127 (CMY 127) - Credits: 16.00
Introductory genetics 161 (GTS 161) - Credits: 8.00
Introduction to microbiology 161 (MBY 161) - Credits: 8.00
Molecular and cell biology 111 (MLB 111) - Credits: 16.00
Physics for biology students 131 (PHY 131) - Credits: 16.00
Mathematics 134 (WTW 134) - Credits: 16.00
Animal diversity 161 (ZEN 161) - Credits: 8.00

Curriculum: Year 3

Minimum credits: 144

Core = 108
Elective = 36

Additional information:
Single major track:

- Students must take BCM 261 as an elective and choose the additional electives from the listed Chemistry, Microbiology, Plant Sciences and Zoology modules.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that no clashes will occur between modules as well as that the necessary prerequisites have been met.

Dual major track:

- **Human Physiology and Biochemistry combination**: Students must take BCM 261, MBY 251 and MBY 261.
- **Human Physiology and Genetics combination**: Students must take BCM 261, MBY 251 and MBY 261.
- **Human Physiology and Microbiology combination**: Students must take MBY 251, MBY 261 and MBY 262.
- **Human Physiology and Pharmacology combination**: Students must take BCM 261 and take other 200-level elective modules (24 credits). No 200-level prerequisites for 300-level Pharmacology modules.

Core modules

Introduction to proteins and enzymes 251 (BCM 251) - Credits: 12.00
Carbohydrate metabolism 252 (BCM 252) - Credits: 12.00
Introductory biochemistry 257 (BCM 257) - Credits: 12.00
Introductory and neurophysiology 211 (FLG 211) - Credits: 12.00
Circulatory physiology 212 (FLG 212) - Credits: 12.00
Lung and renal physiology, acid-base balance and temperature 221 (FLG 221) - Credits: 12.00
Digestion, endocrinology and reproductive systems 222 (FLG 222) - Credits: 12.00
Molecular genetics 251 (GTS 251) - Credits: 12.00
Genetic diversity and evolution 261 (GTS 261) - Credits: 12.00

Elective modules

Lipid and nitrogen metabolism 261 (BCM 261) - Credits: 12.00
Plant physiology and biotechnology 261 (BOT 261) - Credits: 12.00
Physical chemistry 282 (CMY 282) - Credits: 12.00
Analytical chemistry 283 (CMY 283) - Credits: 12.00
Organic chemistry 284 (CMY 284) - Credits: 12.00
Inorganic chemistry 285 (CMY 285) - Credits: 12.00
Bacteriology 251 (MBY 251) - Credits: 12.00
Mycology 261 (MBY 261) - Credits: 12.00
Food microbiology 262 (MBY 262) - Credits: 12.00
Invertebrate biology 251 (ZEN 251) - Credits: 12.00
African vertebrates 261 (ZEN 261) - Credits: 12.00

Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 144

Core = 72
Elective = 72

Additional information:
Single major track:

- Electives in the third year must be chosen from the listed Biochemistry, Chemistry, Genetics, Microbiology, Plant science, Zoology or a combination of Pharmacology and Biochemistry and/or Genetics modules.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that no clashes will occur between modules as well as that the necessary prerequisites have been met.
- NOTE: Students interested in pursuing postgraduate studies in occupational health and safety must take FLG 322 Industrial Physiology (18 credits). The balance of their elective credits may be chosen from 300-level modules in Biochemistry or Genetics or a combination of Pharmacology (FAR 381 and 382) and Biochemistry and/or Genetics.
- Any other student interested in the field of occupational health and safety may take FLG 322 as an elective.

Dual major track:

- **Human Physiology and Biochemistry combination**: Students must take BCM 356, BCM 357, BCM 367, BCM 368.
- **Human Physiology and Genetics combination**: Students must take GTS 351, GTS 354, GTS 367, GTS 368.
- **Human Physiology and Microbiology combination**: Students must take MBY 351, MBY 355, MBY 364, MBY 365.
- **Human Physiology and Pharmacology combination**: Students must take FAR 381 and 382 combined with 300-level modules in Biochemistry and/or Genetics to a total of 72 credits.
- NOTE: Students interested in pursuing postgraduate studies in occupational health and safety must also take FLG 322 Industrial Physiology (18 credits). In order to obtain the degree with a dual major in any of the above, the stipulated electives must be taken. Any student interested in the field of occupational health and safety may also take FLG 322 as an elective.

Core modules

Higher neurological functions 327 (FLG 327) - Credits: 18.00
Cellular and developmental physiology 330 (FLG 330) - Credits: 18.00
Exercise and nutrition science 331 (FLG 331) - Credits: 18.00
Applied and pathophysiology 332 (FLG 332) - Credits: 18.00

Elective modules

Macromolecules of life: structure-function and bioinformatics 356 (BCM 356) - Credits: 18.00
Biocatalysis and integration of metabolism 357 (BCM 357) - Credits: 18.00
Cell structure and function 367 (BCM 367) - Credits: 18.00
Molecular basis of disease 368 (BCM 368) - Credits: 18.00
Plant ecophysiology 356 (BOT 356) - Credits: 18.00
Phytomedicine 365 (BOT 365) - Credits: 18.00
Physical chemistry 382 (CMY 382) - Credits: 18.00
Analytical chemistry 383 (CMY 383) - Credits: 18.00
Organic chemistry 384 (CMY 384) - Credits: 18.00

Inorganic chemistry 385 (CMY 385) - Credits: 18.00
Pharmacology 381 (FAR 381) - Credits: 18.00
Pharmacology 382 (FAR 382) - Credits: 18.00
Industrial physiology 322 (FLG 322) - Credits: 18.00
Eukaryotic gene control and development 351 (GTS 351) - Credits: 18.00
Genome evolution and phylogenetics 354 (GTS 354) - Credits: 18.00
Population and evolutionary genetics 367 (GTS 367) - Credits: 18.00
Genetics in human health 368 (GTS 368) - Credits: 18.00
Virology 351 (MBY 351) - Credits: 18.00
Bacterial genetics 355 (MBY 355) - Credits: 18.00
Genetic manipulation of microbes 364 (MBY 364) - Credits: 18.00
Microbe interactions 365 (MBY 365) - Credits: 18.00
Population ecology 351 (ZEN 351) - Credits: 18.00
Mammalogy 352 (ZEN 352) - Credits: 18.00
Evolutionary physiology 354 (ZEN 354) - Credits: 18.00
Behavioural ecology 363 (ZEN 363) - Credits: 18.00

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.