

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

BScHons in Biostatistics specialising in Epidemiology and Biostatistics (10244017)

Department School of Health Systems and Public Health

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 120

NQF level 08

Programme information

The following requirements are set:

- Students must pass the module TNM 700 Applied research methodology 700.
- Students must pass the module PHM 779 Learning in public health 779.
- Students must pass a research report (or project) that carries 30 credits. This research report will be a protocol for a quantitative research project.

Admission requirements

1. Bachelor's degree
2. A weighted average of at least 60% at final-year level

Additional requirements

Registration as a special student in the Faculty in order to pass a status examination

Candidates will be required to first register as a special student in the Faculty, in order to pass in a status examination, in the following instances:

- A three-year bachelor's degree with less than five years' applicable practical (work) experience; or
- A four-year bachelor's degree with less than two years' applicable practical (work) experience; or
- Any applicant in possession of an approved bachelor's degree, who the School's Selection Committee deems fit to register as a special student.

NB:

In accordance with the criteria of the Senate of the University, the applications for admission of all such candidates must, apart from any Faculty requirements, also be submitted to the University Senate for approval. All candidates accepted for postgraduate study (MPH or the Postgraduate Diplomas) must be in possession of a National Senior Certificate with admission for degree purposes.

Pass requirements for the status examination

- At least 60% must be obtained in the status examination.
- The status examination will be written in June.

Other selection criteria

Academic merit (an average mark of at least 60% for the final-year subjects of the bachelor's degree will be required)

- National/International need for epidemiologists and biostatisticians
- Under-represented groups in epidemiology and biostatistics
- Epidemiology and/ biostatistics-related employment
- Track record – e.g. employment, academic, etc.

Examinations and pass requirements

Students must attend all lectures and practical classes (as may be required), and should successfully complete all online tasks, as required, to the satisfaction of the head of department or the Chairperson of the School before they will be admitted to the examinations. Written, oral and/or practical examinations must be passed in all the modules. Both exit examinations will be externally moderated. The minimum pass mark for the modules and the exit examinations is 50%. Only with the approval of the Chairperson of the School, on the recommendation of the head of department, will a student be allowed to continue his or her studies after having failed two modules (or the same module twice). A second examination in a module (including the BScHons-specific exit examinations) is arranged in conjunction with the head of department for any student obtaining less than 50% and more than 39% for any module or exit examination.

Pass with distinction

The BScHons (Epidemiology and Biostatistics) degree is awarded with distinction to a student who has obtained a mark of at least 75% for the externally moderated assessment components as well as a simple (unweighted) average of at least 75% of all the marks for the other required modules for the degree; excluding PHM 779 Learning in public health 779.

General information

Concurrent registration for two study programmes

- In accordance with the stipulations of the General Academic Regulations, concurrent registration for two postgraduate programmes is not allowed, except in the case of exceptional academic achievement, and the permission of the Dean is required for concurrent registration, subject to the regulations applicable to the fields of study in question and to any other stipulations the Dean may prescribe. Such a concession may be withdrawn by the Dean if the student does not perform satisfactorily – all assignments and coursework must be completed on time. Concurrent registration will not be accepted as a reason for poor performance or not meeting deadlines for both study programmes.
- In the case of registering concurrently for two study programmes in the School of Health Systems and Public Health and elsewhere, students must obtain the written consent of both the coordinator of their current programme and the coordinator of the second programme (or the track co-ordinator in the case of the MPH), and submit it with a substantiating letter to the School's Academic Programme Committee, for recommendation by the Chairperson of the School, after which the application is submitted to the Dean for approval.
- The School of Health Systems and Public Health states that concurrent registration for two study programmes is a privilege and not a right.
- Concurrent registration must be applied for annually and is granted based on academic performance in the primary degree/diploma programme. If the current field of study is a master's degree, then the second field of



study can be a postgraduate diploma.

- v. If the current field of study is a postgraduate diploma, then the second field of study can be another postgraduate diploma.



Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 120

Core modules

Biostatistics 1 751 (BOS 751) - Credits: 15.00

Biostatistics 2 752 (BOS 752) - Credits: 15.00

Conducting surveys 700 (EPM 700) - Credits: 10.00

Epidemiology 1 751 (HME 751) - Credits: 15.00

Epidemiology 2 752 (HME 752) - Credits: 15.00

Part I Integrative assignment 753 (HME 753) - Credits: 5.00

Part II integrative assignment 754 (HME 754) - Credits: 5.00

Epidemiology and biostatistics research project 750 (PHM 750) - Credits: 30.00

Part I Epidemiology and biostatistics examination 751 (PHM 751) - Credits: 0.00

Part II Epidemiology and biostatistics examination 752 (PHM 752) - Credits: 0.00

Learning in public health 779 (PHM 779) - Credits: 10.00

Applied research methodology 700 (TNM 700) - Credits: 0.00

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.