

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

MSc specialising in Epidemiology and Biostatistics (10253336)

Department	School of Health Systems and Public Health
Minimum duration of study	1 year
Total credits	180
NQF level	09

Programme information

The following requirements are set:

Advanced instruction by means of blended learning

Students must pass the module TNM 802 Applied research methodology 802

Students must pass the module HMS 873 Scientific writing 873

Students must select and pass one of the elective 30-credit modules

Students must pass a dissertation that carries 150 credits.

Admission requirements

1. Bachelor of Science Honours degree with Epidemiology and Applied Biostatistics (or equivalent) **or** relevant honours degree **or** relevant four-year bachelor's degree with two years of applicable experience **or** relevant bachelor's (or equivalent) degree with five years of applicable experience
2. A weighted average of at least 60% for the honours degree or a cumulative weighted average of 60% for the bachelor's degree

Additional requirements

All MSc students must register for, and attend TNM 802 Applied research methodology 802 satisfactorily. (Exemption may be granted, on application, if the module has already been passed for the BScHons degree.) Also consult General Academic Regulations.

Other programme-specific information

Concurrent registration for two study programmes

1. In accordance with the stipulations of the General Academic Regulations, which is mutatis mutandis applicable in the case of postgraduate diploma study, 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 Such a concession may be withdrawn by the Dean if the student does not perform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.

2. 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, 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.
3. The School of Health Systems and Public Health states that concurrent registration for two study programmes is a privilege and not a right.
4. 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.

Examinations and pass requirements

Students must attend all lectures and practical classes (as may be required), and should successfully complete all online and/or distance-based tasks, as required, to the satisfaction of the head of department or the Chairperson of the School. Written, oral and/or practical examinations must be passed in the elective module as well as in TNM 802 Applied research methodology 802 and HMS 873 Scientific writing 873.

The minimum pass mark for the modules and the dissertation 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 their studies after having failed a module twice. A second examination in a module is arranged in conjunction with the head of department for any student obtaining less than 50% and more than 39% for any module. In addition:

1. The prescribed modules must be passed independently of each other.
2. No second examinations will be granted in modules in which less than 40% has been obtained. Instead, the module must be repeated in its entirety.

Research information

Research protocol

After registration, a student is required to submit a complete research protocol regarding the proposed dissertation to the Academic Advisory Committee and also to the Faculty of Health Sciences Ethics Committee for approval.

Dissertation

A dissertation on an approved research project must be passed. The stipulations of the General Academic Regulations regarding the preparation and submission, the technical editing and the résumé of the dissertation apply.

Pass with distinction

The MSc (Epidemiology)(*Epidemiology and Biostatistics*) degree is awarded with distinction to a student who has obtained a mark of at least 75% for the dissertation as well as a weighted average of at least 75% of all the marks for the other required modules for the degree (with weighting in proportion to the credit value of the module).

Curriculum: Final year

Electives:

Select only ONE module.

Core modules

Scientific writing 875 (HMS 875)

Module credits	0.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health Systems and Public Health
Period of presentation	Year

Mini-dissertation: Epidemiology and applied biostatistics 850 (PHM 850)

Module credits	150.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health Systems and Public Health
Period of presentation	Year

Applied research methodology 802 (TNM 802)

Module credits	0.00
NQF Level	09
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Health Sciences Dean's Office
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

*Attendance module only.

Elective modules

Field epidemiology 860 (CDC 860)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.

Contact time 4 practicals per week, Block 3: 8 lectures per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department School of Health Systems and Public Health

Period of presentation Year

Module content

Surveillance; infectious disease epidemiology; disease control programmes; outbreak investigations and control.

Clinical epidemiology and evidence-based medicine 860 (CLI 860)

Module credits 30.00

NQF Level 09

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time Block 3: 8 lectures per week, 4 practicals per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department School of Health Systems and Public Health

Period of presentation Year

Module content

Clinical epidemiology; survival analysis; evidence-based medicine; chronic disease epidemiology; infectious disease epidemiology; economic evaluation.

Monitoring and evaluation of health programmes 860 (HME 860)

Module credits 30.00

NQF Level 09

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 4 practicals per week, Block 3: 8 lectures per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Health Sciences Dean's Office

Period of presentation Year

Module content

Monitoring and evaluation principles; qualitative research; health data management; ethics; quality assurance; surveillance.

Public health epidemiology 861 (HME 861)

Module credits 30.00

NQF Level 09

Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	4 practicals per week, Block 3: 8 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health Systems and Public Health
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Chronic disease epidemiology; infectious disease epidemiology; surveillance; environmental epidemiology.

Occupational and environmental health epidemiology 860 (OHM 860)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	4 practicals per week, Block 3: 8 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of Health Systems and Public Health
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Exposure assessment; health risk assessment; environmental epidemiology; surveillance; toxicology; environmental chemical pollution.

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.