

# University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

## MSc specialising in Community Oriented Primary Care (10253400)

**Department** Family Medicine

**Minimum duration of study** 1 year

**Total credits** 180

**NQF level** 09

### Programme information

The purpose of the MSc (COPC) is to equip health workers with advanced research skills, knowledge, and applied competencies required to conduct research in the field of COPC. By the end of the programme, students will submit their dissertations. All MSc (COPC) students must register for, and attend Applied research methodology (TNM 802), satisfactorily. This programme will prepare graduates to critically research, analyse and address complex problems (through an evidence-based approach) to facilitate the re-engineering of primary health care towards the development of Universal Health Access using the COPC approach. Through work-integrated learning, students will use their relevant work-based experiences to address complex research and ethical issues while addressing other issues related to care coordination to and from the home, community, clinic, hospital, and other services and facilities. Students will develop strategies to gather and synthesize data in their field of COPC and upon completion of the programme, will be able to go on to doctoral studies. Students will be able to function in positions where they coordinate COPC-related research, facilitate care coordination, and provide leadership, support, and guidance to teams of community-based healthcare workers

### Admission requirements

1. Postgraduate Diploma with Public Health (or equivalent) (NQF level 8) **or** relevant honours degree **or** relevant bachelor's degree (NQF level 8)

### Additional requirements

#### *Computer literacy*

The University of Pretoria makes use of Blackboard, branded as clickUP, which is an online system that provides a workspace for students, providing students with the information and the connections needed. ClickUP contains study material as well as a simple, convenient, and reliable web conferencing and virtual classroom solutions specifically built for education and training. ClickUP is accessible via a web browser, mobile device, or tablet and has a useful student guide.

Students are required to have some technical and digital literacy skills such as the ability to:

- navigate the University's eLearning environment (clickUP);

- use the email service in the Learning Management System;
- manage digital files: create, store, upload and attach files to assignment submissions (using applications such as MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint),
- use the library website and databases for research and make use of proper referencing techniques;
- use a webcam, upload videos or audio files, use social media for communication or to collaborate electronically; and
- download and install software and applications.

## Examinations and pass requirements

In order to obtain the MSc (COPC), the candidate must pass the examination of the dissertation as determined in the study programme.

Students must obtain a minimum of 50% for a dissertation in order to pass the module.

## Practical/clinical/internship information

Work-integrated learning (WIL) as research project-based learning will be incorporated into the research module (at least 20%). Students will participate in research activities and responsibilities in preselected or preapproved environments such as hospitals, clinics or home-based services. In this programme students will be expected to use their research skills to solve authentic COPC and coordination of care-related problems. Such cases will be chosen based on the common frequency of occurrence in the contexts of areas where students practice. In addition to this, students will be encouraged to involve a multidisciplinary team in their research activities.

## Research information

At the end of the programme students should demonstrate specialist knowledge to enable engagement with and critique of current research or practices, as well as advanced scholarship or research in the field of COPC. AMSCII 180 credits will be in the form of a dissertation.

## Pass with distinction

The MSc (COPC) is conferred with distinction on a student who obtains at least 75% in their dissertation.

## Curriculum: Final year

### Core modules

Dissertation: Community orientated primary care 800 (CPC 800) - Credits: 180.00

Applied research methodology 802 (TNM 802) - Credits: 0.00

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### 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.