

# General Rules and Admission Requirements

Faculty of Science and Agriculture  
University of Zululand

2010

# FACULTY RULES

The Faculty and Departmental Rules contained in this Handbook and the relevant General Academic Rules of the University are applicable to all students registered in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture. Unless otherwise stated, any exceptions to these rules require the approval of the Faculty Board. In all instances, Departmental Rules may not relax the requirements stipulated in the Faculty Rules and Faculty Rules may not relax the requirements stipulated in the General Rules. Departmental Rules therefore replace Faculty Rules which in turn replace General Rules in instances where more stringent requirements are specified.

## A UNDERGRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS

### S1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

#### S1.1 Streams for all B.Sc Programmes and B. Industrial Science

The faculty offers entry to one of three academic streams.

The **Mainstream** allows direct entry to the regular B.Sc programmes and students in this stream will be assumed to be adequately prepared for University level study and should therefore be in a position to complete in the minimum time prescribed for the qualification.

The **Augmented** stream (see rule S17.1) will enable students to complete the first academic year over a period of two years and they will receive substantial additional tuition and support. This stream will add an additional year to the minimum time required for the completion of a programme.

The **Foundation** stream (see rule S17.2) will enable students to spend their first year in a dedicated programme designed to improve their academic grounding. This stream will add an additional year to the minimum time required for the completion of a programme.

In the first week of the first semester compulsory benchmark tests will be conducted at times and in venues which will be given to students when they register. The results of these tests will be used to guide the Faculty in its' assessment of additional support mechanisms required for students.

## **S1.2 Under the former Senior Certificate Examinations (completed prior to 2008)**

The minimum requirements for entry into the **B.Sc programmes** and **B. Industrial Science** are:

(a) **Mainstream**

- (i) a full matriculation endorsement, exemption or conditional exemption or its approved foreign equivalent,
- (ii) a minimum of 30 matriculation points,
- (iii) a pass of at least 40%(E symbol) at the higher grade(HG) or 50% (D symbol)at the standard grade(SG) in Mathematics. For programmes that require Calculus 1 (SMTH111) and Calculus 2 (SMTH112) the minimum requirement for Mathematics at the higher grade (HG) is 50% (D symbol) and at standard grade (SG) is 70% (B symbol), and
- (iv) a pass of at least 40% (E symbol) at the higher grade (HG) or 60% (C symbol) at the standard grade (SG) in at least one of Computer Studies, Physical Science, Biology or Agriculture.

(b) **Augmented Stream**

Candidates who do not satisfy (a) (ii) and/or (a) (iii) and/or (a) (iv) and/or (a) (v) above, but have at least 26 matriculation points and a minimum 40%(E symbol) at the higher grade (HG) or 60%(C symbol) at the standard grade (SG) in mathematics and in one of Computer Studies, Physical Science, Biology or Agriculture may be placed in the Science Augmented stream.

(c) **Foundation Stream**

Candidates who do not satisfy (a) and (b) but have a full matriculation endorsement, exemption or conditional exemption or its approved foreign equivalent, with at least 20 matriculation points and have attempted Mathematics and at least one of Computer Studies, Physical Science, Biology or Agriculture may be placed in the Science Foundation stream.

(d) The minimum requirements for entry into the **Consumer Sciences programmes** are:

**B.Consumer Science (Nutrition) and B.Consumer Science (Extension and Rural Development)**

- (i) a full matriculation endorsement, exemption or conditional exemption or its approved foreign equivalent,
- (ii) a Minimum of 26 matriculation points,
- (iii) a pass in Biology or Physiology of at least 40% (E symbol) at the higher grade (HG) or 50% (D symbol) at the standard grade (SG), and
- (iv) a pass in English of at least 40% (E symbol) at the higher grade (HG) or 50% (D symbol) at the standard grade (SG).

## **B. Consumer Science (Hospitality and Tourism)**

- (i) a full matriculation endorsement, exemption or conditional exemption or its approved foreign equivalent,
  - (ii) a minimum of 24 matriculation points, and
  - (iii) a pass in English of at least 40% (E symbol) at the higher grade (HG) or 50% (D symbol) at the standard grade (SG).
- (e) The minimum requirements for entry into **Nursing Science programmes** are **B.Cur**
- (i) a full matriculation endorsement, exemption or conditional exemption or its approved foreign equivalent,
  - (ii) a minimum of 26 matric points,
  - (iii) a pass in English of at least 40% (E symbol) at the higher grade (HG) or 50% (D symbol) at the standard grade (SG), and
  - (iv) a pass in Biology of at least 40% (E symbol) at the higher grade (HG) or 50% (D symbol) at the standard grade (SG).

### **B Cur (E et A)**

- (i) a full matriculation endorsement, exemption or conditional exemption or its approved foreign equivalent,
  - (ii) a minimum of 26 matric points, and
  - (iii) current registration with the SANC as professional nurse and midwife.
- (f) The minimum requirement for entry into the **B.A. Degree in Environmental Planning and Development programme** is identical to the general entry requirements for a B.A. degree as stipulated in the Prospectus of the Faculty of Arts.
- (g) The minimum requirements for entry into the **Diploma programmes** are **Diploma in Sport and Exercise Technology**
- (i) a matriculation certificate or a school leaving certificate issued by the Joint Matriculation Board or a Senior Certificate issued by any of the authorised examining authorities.

### **S1.3 Under the New National Senior Certificate Examinations (as from 2008 grade 12)**

Mathematical literacy is not deemed acceptable for direct entry into the Science Faculty. However students who have achieved a pass of at least 70% (level 6) may be admitted to the Faculty through the foundation stream.

The minimum requirements for entry into the **B.Sc programmes** and **B. Industrial Science** are:

(a) **Mainstream**

- (i) A National Senior Certificate (NSC) with passes allowing entry to degree studies is required. (This is referred to as a NSC-Deg) or its approved foreign equivalent,
- (ii) a minimum of 28 NSC points,
- (iii) a pass of at least 40% (level 3) in Mathematics. For programmes incorporating Calculus 1 (SMTH111) and Calculus 2 (SMTH112) the requirement for Mathematics is at least 50% (level 4), and
- (iv) a pass of at least 50% (level 4) in English and Life Orientation and
- (v) a pass of at least 50% (level 4) in at least one of Agricultural Science, Life Sciences or Physical Sciences.

(b) **Augmented Stream**

Candidates who do not satisfy (a)(ii) and/or (a)(iii) and/or (a)(iv) and/or (a)(v) above, but have at least 24 NSC points but

- (i) have attained a minimum of 40% (level 3) in mathematics
- (ii) have attained a minimum of 40% in one of Agricultural Science, Life Sciences or Physical Sciences, and
- (iii) have attained at least 40% (level 3) in English second language or 50% (level 4) in English first language

may be placed in the Science Augmented stream.

(c) **Foundation Stream**

Candidates who do not satisfy (a) or (b) but have a NSC-Deg or its approved foreign equivalent, with at least 20 NSC points but

- (i) have at least 30% (level 2) in Mathematics (or have attained at least 70% (level 6) in mathematical literacy),
- (ii) have at least 30% (level 2) in at least one of Agricultural Science, Life Sciences or Physical Sciences, and
- (iii) have attained at least 40% (level 3) in English second language or 50% (level 4) in English first language

may be placed in the Science Foundation stream.

- (d) The minimum requirements for entry into the **Consumer Sciences programmes** are:

**B.Consumer Science (Nutrition) and B.Consumer Science (Extension and Rural Development)**

- (i) a National Senior Certificate (NSC) with passes allowing entry to degree studies is required. (This is referred to as a NSC-Deg) or its approved foreign equivalent,
- (ii) a minimum of 26 NSC points, and
- (iii) a pass of at least 50% (level 4) in English, Life Sciences and Life Orientation.

**B. Consumer Science (Hospitality and Tourism)**

- (i) a National Senior Certificate (NSC) with passes allowing entry to degree studies is required. (This is referred to as a NSC-Deg) or its approved foreign equivalent,
- (ii) a Minimum of 24 NSC points, and
- (iii) a pass of at least 50% (level 4) in English and Life Orientation

- (e) The minimum requirements for entry into **Nursing Science programmes** are

**B.Cur**

- (i) a National Senior Certificate (NSC) with passes allowing entry to degree studies is required. (This is referred to as a NSC-Deg) or its approved foreign equivalent,
- (ii) a minimum of 26 NSC points,
- (iii) a pass of at least 50% (level 4) in English, and
- (iv) a pass of at least 50% (level 4) in Life Sciences.

**B Cur (E et A)**

- (i) a National Senior Certificate (NSC) with passes allowing entry to degree studies is required. (This is referred to as a NSC-Deg) or its approved foreign equivalent,
- (ii) a minimum of 24 NSC points, and
- (ii) current registration with the SANC as professional nurse and midwife.

- (f) The minimum requirements for entry into the **B.A. Degree in Environmental Planning and Development programme** is the general entry requirement for a B.A. degree as stipulated in the Prospectus of the Faculty of Arts.

- (g) The minimum requirements for entry into the **Diploma programmes** are  
**Diploma in Sport and Exercise Technology**
- (i) a pass in the National Senior Certificate,
  - (ii) a pass of at least 40% (level 3) in four recognized NSC 20-credit subjects,
  - (iii) A pass of at least 40% (level 3) for English at First Additional Language or a pass of at least 50% (level 4) for English as Home language.

## **S2 REGISTRATION RESTRICTIONS**

- (a) Candidates may register for a module only if all prerequisite requirements for that module have been satisfied.
- (b) In all semesters of registration the maximum load will be 64 credits (4 semester courses of 16 credits each). Students who have passed at least 7 semester courses in their previous academic year and students who require no more than one additional semester course to complete their degree may register for one additional semester course in one of the semesters. Any deviation from this will require the approval of the Executive Dean.
- (c) Students may only register for
- (i) year-level 2 modules after they have obtained at least 64 credits at year-level 1 including 32 credits which are compulsory for their chosen programme or major, and
  - (ii) year-level 3 modules after they have passed all year-level 1 modules and at least two year-level 2 modules (32 credits) which are compulsory for their chosen programme or combination of majors.
- At registration, students must register for outstanding year-level 1 modules before they register for any year-level 2 modules and they must register for outstanding year-level 2 modules before they register for any year-level 3 modules
- (d) Only under exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Executive Dean, may students be allowed to register for two or more modules that are in the same timetable group.
- (e) Students who have failed any module more than one time will need the approval of the Executive Dean before they can register for this module for a further attempt.
- (f) Any module published in this prospectus may, in any particular year, not be offered if the demand for the module does not warrant it or if qualified staff to teach it are not available. Students may defer their registration for this module to the following year or an appropriate module will be officially offered in its place
- (g) Modules worth at most 32 credits may be chosen, subject to timetable constraints, from any other faculty with the Executive Dean's approval.

### **S3 ASSESSMENT**

#### **(a) Assessment types**

- (i) Continuous assessment marks (CAM) derived from assignments, practicals, tests and other activities while a module is being taught,
- (ii) Final examinations conducted at the end of a module,
- (iii) Supplementary examinations conducted subject to admittance after the final mark of a module is determined,
- (iv) Aegrotat examinations held if special circumstances prevented a student from attending final examinations, and
- (v) Special examinations held to enable a student to graduate if the examination is passed.

#### **(b) Continuous assessment mark (CAM)**

The components that contribute to the CAM for each module and the requirements for admittance to the final examination, *the Duly Performed (DP) requirement*, for each module are indicated in the syllabi of each module.

#### **(c) Final Examinations**

There shall be two periods for final examinations, one at the end of each semester. These examinations are normally written but may include oral and/or practical components.

- (i) The final examinations for a module comprise a final written examination and may also include oral and/or practical components.
- (ii) A subminimum of 40% is required for each of the final examinations in a module.

#### **(d) Supplementary Examinations**

Supplementary examinations are held to allow a student who failed a module by a small margin to re-attempt the examination. The primary purpose of such an examination is to confirm whether a student has or has not met the outcomes specified for the module. Depending on the composition of the module, individual departments may treat this examination as a separate entity or they may include all or some of the components of the continuous assessment mark that was used in the determination of the original final mark.

There shall be two periods for supplementary examinations, one at the start of semester 2 for semester 1 modules, and one in January for semester 2 modules. These examinations are normally written but may include oral and/or practical components.

- (i) Candidates who fail a module with a final mark at least 40% shall be permitted to write a supplementary examination in that module.

- (ii) Students who write supplementary exams in a module may not be awarded a final mark for that module of more than 50 %.
- (iii) Students who do not qualify to pass a module after writing a supplementary examination retain their previous mark for the module.
- (iv) No further examination (supplementary or aegrotat) may be awarded following a supplementary examination (i.e the module must be registered again in a subsequent year).

**(e) Aegrotat examinations**

- (i) The General rules for admission to an aegrotat examination apply.
- (ii) No further examination (supplementary or aegrotat) may be awarded following an aegrotat examination (i.e the module must be registered again in a subsequent year).

**(f) Special examinations**

If a student has been granted no more than two supplementary examinations (32 credits) in terms of rule S4(d), and has failed another module (16 credits) with a final mark between 30% and 40%, then the student will be permitted to write a special supplementary examination in this module, provided that:

- (i) passing all supplementary examinations will enable the student to graduate immediately thereafter.
- (ii) passing all supplementary examinations will enable the student to graduate immediately after the subsequent semester if they pass all of the modules that they are registered for in that semester.

Rules S3(d) (ii), (iii) and (iv) will apply for an examination written in terms of this rule and it will be the same examination and held at the same time as the supplementary examination.

Since this rule accommodates students who are within reach of completing their qualification, the general rules pertaining to Special Examinations and the dates specified in the calendar for these examinations therefore do not apply to students in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture.

**(g) Final Mark**

- (i) The final mark for a module is derived from the CAM and the final examination (or aegrotat examination) mark.
- (ii) The CAM may not comprise more than 40% of the final mark.
- (iii) A final mark of below 50% constitutes a fail.
- (iv) Supplementary and Special examinations may not result in a final mark of more than 50%.
- (v) The General Rules that relate to the classification of the final mark of a module (distinction, first class etc) apply.

## S4 ATTAINMENT AND CONFERMENT OF DEGREE

- (a) A qualification must be completed in no more than two years beyond the minimum prescribed time for that qualification. Only years that have been registered are used in determining the number of years taken by a student.
- (b) Students, who have satisfied all of the academic requirements of a programme, (a total of 384 credit points (3 year qualifications) or 512 credit points (4 year qualifications) including all of the compulsory modules specified for that qualification, will be deemed to have completed the degree.
- (c) The conferral of the degree at a graduation ceremony will only occur once all administrative and financial requirements have been met in addition to the academic requirements.
- (d) The General Rules that relate to the classification of a degree (distinction, first class etc) apply.

## S5 EXCLUSION RULES

Students who fail to obtain the minimum number of credits at the end of each semester, as tabulated below, and are unable to propose an academic plan acceptable to the Executive Dean to address their slow progress shall be excluded from the Faculty.

S E M	MAINSTREAM	EXTENDED	YEAR
1 2	32 (2 semester modules) 64 (4 semester modules)	32 (2 semester modules) 64 (4 semester modules)	1
3 4	96 (6 semester modules) 144 (9 semester modules)	96 (6 semester modules) 128 (8 semester modules)	2
5 6	176 (11 semester modules) 224 (14 semester modules) <i>(64 at level-2)</i>	160 (10 semester modules) 192 (12 semester modules) <i>(32 at level-2)</i>	3
7 8	256 (16 semester modules) 304 (19 semester modules) <i>(96 at level-2 and 48 at level-3)</i>	224 (14 semester modules) 256 (16 semester modules) <i>(96 at level-2 or level-3)</i>	4
9 10	336 (21 semester modules) 384 (24 semester modules) <b>(3-year qualification complete)</b> <i>(4-year qualification: 96 at level-3)</i>	288 (18 semester modules) 320 (20 semester modules) <i>(64 at level-3)</i>	5
11 12	448 (28 semester modules) 512 (32 semester modules) <b>(4-year qualification complete)</b>	352 (22 semester modules) 384 (24 semester modules) <b>(3-year qualification complete)</b> <i>(4-year qualification: 96 at level-3)</i>	6
13 14		448 (28 semester modules) 512 (32 semester modules) <b>(4-year qualification complete)</b>	7

- (a) The number of semesters spent in other universities or faculties may be used in the above calculations.
- (b) Excluded students may apply to the Executive Dean for readmission. This may be granted under special circumstances and students will have to satisfy certain specified conditions. However, an excluded student will not be permitted to register for any module in the Faculty, unless required by a qualification in another Faculty for which the student is registered.

## **S6 TRANSITION FROM TERM-LENGTH MODULES TO A SEMESTERISED SYSTEM**

The University is in the process of phasing out the term-length modular system and phasing in a semester-length modular system. In order for the transition to pass smoothly, the following procedures will apply.

- (a) Students who registered for the first time in 2008 or later will follow the new semesterised system in its entirety.
- (b) Students who were registered prior to 2007 will continue with the term-length modular system subject to the following restrictions:
  - (i) In 2008, term-length year-level 1 modules will be run concurrently with the new semester-length year-level 1 modules. These will either be taught together with the semester-length modules or as separate groups. Higher year-level modules will continue to run as term-length modules.
  - (ii) In 2009, only semester-length modules will be run at year-level 1. Students who have outstanding term-length module/s at this year-level must register for the appropriate semester-length module/s that incorporate the material covered in each outstanding term-length module/s. Term-length year-level 2 modules will be run concurrently with the new semester-length year-level 2 modules. These will either be taught together with the semester-length modules or as separate groups. Higher year-level modules will continue to run as term-length modules.
  - (iii) In 2010, only semester-length modules will be run at year-levels 1 and 2. Students who have outstanding term-length module/s at these year-levels must register for the appropriate semester-length module/s that incorporate the material covered in the outstanding term-length module/s. Term-length year-level 3 modules will be run concurrently with the new semester-length year-level 3 modules. These will either be taught together with the semester-length modules or as separate groups. Higher year-level modules will continue to run as term-length modules.
  - (iv) In 2011, only semester-length modules will be run at year-levels 1, 2 and 3. Students who have outstanding term-length module/s at these year-levels must register for the appropriate semester-length module/s that incorporate the material covered in the outstanding term-length module/s. Term-length year-level 4 modules will be run concurrently with the new

semester-length year-level 4 modules. These will either be taught together with the semester-length modules or as separate groups.

- (v) After 2011, only semester-length modules will be run at all year-levels. Students who have outstanding term-length module/s must register for the appropriate semester-length module/s that incorporate the material covered in the outstanding term-length module/s.

## **S7 STRUCTURE OF QUALIFICATIONS**

The structure of qualifications in the Faculty as outlined below follow the New Higher Education Qualifications Framework (HEQF) as published in the Government Gazette (5 October 2007) for introduction as from the 2009 Academic year.

### **S7.1 Undergraduate Diplomas**

- (a) The minimum duration of a three year diploma is six semesters.
- (b) The total credit value of a diploma is at least 384 (12 32-credit year modules), provided that
  - (i) at least 60 credits (two 32-credit year modules are at NQF level 7,
  - (ii) no more than 120 credits (four 32-credit year modules are at NQF level 5,

### **S7.2 Undergraduate Degrees**

- (a) The minimum duration of a three (four) year qualification is six (eight) semesters.
- (b) The total credit value of a three year qualification is at least 384 (24 16-credit semester modules), provided that
  - (i) at least 120 credits (eight 16-credit semester modules are at NQF level 7,
  - (ii) at least 120 credits (eight 16-credit semester modules are at NQF level 6,
  - (iii) no more than 96 credits (six 16-credit semester modules) are at NQF level 5.
- (c) The total credit value of a four year qualification is at least 512 (32 16-credit semester modules), provided that
  - (i) the stipulations under (b) (i), (ii) and (iii) above apply, and
  - (ii) at least 96 credits (six 16-credit semester modules are at NQF level 8),

### **S7.3 Honours Degrees**

- (a) The minimum duration of an honours qualification is two semesters.
- (b) The total credit value of an honours qualification is at least 120 provided that at least 120 credits are at NQF level 8,

## **S8 EXTERNAL CREDITS**

Modules passed at another University, if deemed equivalent by the Executive Dean, may count up to a maximum of 50% of the candidate's curriculum. However, except with the permission of Faculty Board, year-level 3 modules may not be substituted for those passed either at another University, or in another faculty unless specified in the programme in which the student is registered.

## **S9 COMMON CURRICULUM (DEGREE BASED ON MAJORS)**

Programmes offered in the Faculty are divided into three broad groups, the Life Sciences, the Physical and Mathematical Sciences and the Earth Sciences. In many cases students will pursue a qualification having majors that are in the same broad group but it is also possible for students to have majors from two different groups provided that this combination is deemed acceptable by the Faculty and that it is possible to study the subjects within the timetable.

The Life Sciences group incorporates the disciplines of Biochemistry, Botany, Human Movement Science, Microbiology and Zoology

The Physical and Mathematical Sciences group incorporates the disciplines of Applied Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Sciences, Mathematics, Physics and Statistics

The Earth Sciences group incorporates the disciplines of Geography and Hydrology

## **S10 STRUCTURE OF DEGREE BASED ON MAJORS**

- (a) 64 year-level 3 credits (NQF level 7) shall be in modules for each major subject.
- (b) Of the required 128 year-level 2 credits (NQF level 6) 32 credits must be specified for each major. Subject to availability and time table constraints, a further 16 credit year-level 2 module in a major subject may be chosen as an elective.

## **S11 MAJOR SUBJECTS OFFERED BY THE FACULTY**

Applied Mathematics	SAMT	Physics	SPHY
Biochemistry	SBCH	Statistics	SSTT
Botany	SBOT	Zoology	SZOL
Chemistry	SCHM		
Computer Science	SCPS		
Geography	SGES		
Human Movement Science	SHMS		
Hydrology	SHYD		
Mathematics	SMTH		
Microbiology	SMCB		

## S12 RULES FOR COMBINATION OF MAJORS

The Faculty of Science and Agriculture recommends 38 double major combinations as outlined below. The recommended combinations will be accommodated within the timetable whereas other combinations may not be possible within the timetable. Advice should be sought before selecting any combination not indicated as recommended.

Applied Mathematics and Statistics	and	Computer Science, Hydrology, Mathematics, Physics, or Statistics
Biochemistry, Microbiology, or Zoology	and	Botany, Chemistry, Human Movement Science, or Zoology
Botany and Zoology	and	Biochemistry, Geography, Hydrology, Microbiology, or Zoology
Chemistry and Physics,	and	Biochemistry, Computer Science, Hydrology, Mathematics, or Zoology
Computer Science and Physics,	and	Applied Mathematics, Chemistry, Hydrology, Mathematics, or Statistics
Geography	and	Botany, Hydrology, Physics, Statistics or Zoology
Human Movement Science	and	Biochemistry, Microbiology, Physics or Zoology
Hydrology	and	Applied Mathematics, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geography, Microbiology, Physics, Statistics or Zoology
Mathematics or	and	Applied Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics or Statistics
Microbiology or Zoology	and	Biochemistry, Botany, Human Movement Science, Hydrology or Zoology
Physics and Geography,	and	Applied Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Hydrology, Human Movement Science, or Mathematics
Statistics	and	Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, Geography, Hydrology or Mathematics
Zoology and Movement	and	Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Geography, Human Science, Hydrology or Microbiology