

General Rules and Admission Requirements

Faculty of Science and Agriculture

University of Zululand

Introduction and overview

The Faculty of Science and Agriculture, herein called the Faculty, is one of four Faculties at the University of Zululand. It consists of thirteen departments:

Agriculture
Biochemistry and Microbiology
Botany
Chemistry
Computer Science
Consumer Science
Geography and Environmental Studies
Human Movement Sciences
Hydrology
Mathematical Sciences
Nursing Science
Physics
Zoology

Qualifications

The Faculty offers the following qualifications in semesterised programmes. The final examinations for the various modules in these programmes are written in June and November each year.

Undergraduate qualifications

Degree Qualifications

- (a) A three –year programme leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science and denoted as BSc Degree. A student may pursue one of two routes to achieve this:
 - (i) The **double major** route permits students to study certain combinations of disciplines in accordance with their interests and requirements. Curricula may be designed so that graduates are equipped with the necessary skills to pursue careers in various fields.
 - (ii) The **focussed programme** route involves study around a field of specialisation which is indicated after the contraction BSc, e.g., BSc(Sports Science).
- (b) A three-year programme leading to one of the following degrees:
 - B Consumer Science(Nutrition),
 - B Consumer Science(Hospitality and Tourism).

- (c) A four-year programme leading to the following degrees:
BSc Agriculture,
B Consumer Science(Extension and Rural Development),
B. Cur.,
B Industrial Science.

Postgraduate qualifications

Honours Qualifications. The Honours Degree (BSc Hons) or B.Consumer Sc(Hons))follows an acceptable first degree. It is a specialist programme of one year duration.

Masters Qualifications. Following the BSc Hons Degree one may pursue a Master of Science Degree (MSc). This can be done by following either a research programme of at least one year duration or, in some instances, by course work and research. In the former, examination is by dissertation while in the latter it is by coursework and dissertation, with coursework contributing a maximum of 50% of the total required credits.

Doctoral Qualifications. The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Science follows a MSc Degree. It is of at least two years duration and based on a programme of original research. Examination is by thesis.

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All the above qualifications are accredited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

Students are advised that even though a module or programme may be included in this Handbook the Faculty of Science and Agriculture is not compelled to offer it.

Career Opportunities

Positions in the commercial and industrial sectors, education, government departments, research institutes. Please contact individual departments for information on career opportunities in specific fields.

The **Rules** and **Syllabi** sections contain outlines of each qualification and programme offered by the Faculty.

Meaning of terms used

Module - unit of study. Each such unit is given a code. The code structure is as follows:

First letter	Faculty indicator (S = Science and Agriculture)
Next three letters	Department or discipline indicator (BOT = Botany, CHM = Chemistry, etc.)
First number	Year level (1, 2, 3 or 4)
Second number	Numeric to distinguish between modules offered in the same year and semester (1, 2, 3, etc.)
Third number	Semester (1 = first semester, 2 = second semester, 0 = both semesters)

Elective (module) – a module selected from a given list.

Prerequisite module - a module which must be passed before registration of the proposed module is allowed.

Corequisite module - a module which must be passed prior to or in the same semester as the proposed module.

Prerequisite (corequisite) requirement - a requirement which must be met before (during or before) the registration of a proposed module

Curriculum - a list of modules leading to a qualification.

Programme - structured curriculum leading to a qualification

Assessment - the evaluation of a student's work satisfying the requirements of his/her programme. This will include tests, seminars, assignments, projects, examinations (formal official evaluations)

Continuous Assessment Mark (CAM) for a module - is the mark awarded to the module and arises from an assessment of the module but excludes the final examination. The syllabus indicates how this mark is calculated.

Notional study hours - the learning time it would take for an average student to meet the outcomes for a module

Credit points (credits) - one credit point is the value assigned to ten notional study hours of learning and assessment. This is sometimes abbreviated 'cp'.

Major – in a discipline consists of:

64 credits in modules in that discipline at year level 3,

32 credits in modules in that discipline at year level 2, and

32 credits in modules in that or a closely allied discipline at year level 1.

Senate - Senate of the University of Zululand

Institution - University of Zululand

Year of study - a student will be deemed to be in the

- (a) *First year of study* if s/he has not yet obtained a minimum of 96 degree credits
- (b) *Second year of study* if, either
 - (i) in a three year programme, s/he has obtained a minimum of 96 degree credits but has not yet registered for such modules which if passed will lead to the completion of the degree, or
 - (ii) in a four year programme, s/he has obtained at least 96 degree credits but has not yet obtained 50% of the credits needed for the qualification
- (c) *Third year of study* if, either
 - (i) in a three year programme, s/he has registered for such modules which if passed will lead to the completion of the degree, or
 - (ii) in a four year programme, s/he has obtained at least 50% of the degree credits required, but not yet registered for such modules which if passed, will lead to the completion of the degree.
- (d) *Fourth year of study* if s/he is in a four-year programme and has registered for such modules which if passed will lead to the completion of the degree.

Curriculum design

- (a) Each subject is made up of several modules each having a credit rating based on the number of lectures, practicals , tutorials and other related learning activity. A semester-long module is worth 16 credits points.
- (b) All three-year degrees require at least 384 credits and all four-year degrees require at least 512 credits. A student normally takes 128 credits per year.
- (c) The choice of modules for a programme is subject to constraints of the timetable. If choice is available modules may be combined towards particular fields of study.
- (d) Some modules have prerequisite and/or corequisite requirements. These are listed under **Syllabi** below.
- (e) Curricula must be designed to lead to level 2 and level 3 modules which are necessary for the completion of a qualification.
- (f) In the first year of study students usually take modules in four different disciplines. At the second level of study students must choose modules from two or three different subjects (major subjects) which will then lead to two majors.

General rules

The 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 Senate's approval. Where there may appear to be a conflict between a Faculty rule and a General Academic Rule of the University, the latter will apply.

S1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- (a) The minimum requirements for entry into the B.Sc programmes are
 - (i) a full matriculation endorsement or its equivalent,
 - (ii) a minimum of 30 matriculation points, and
 - (iii) a pass of at least 50%(D symbol) at the higher grade(HG) or 60%(C symbol)at the standard grade(SG) in Mathematics, and in at least one of Computer Studies, Physical Science, Biology or Agriculture in the Senior Certificate examination or its equivalent. In addition, for programmes incorporating SMTH111 and SMTH112 the requirement for Mathematics is at least a B symbol at SG.

- (b) Candidates who do not satisfy (a)(ii) and/or (a)(iii) above, but have at least 26 matriculation points and a minimum of a higher grade E in mathematics and in one of Computer Studies, Physical Science, Biology or Agriculture may apply for entry into the BSc Augmented Programme. This programme leads to completion of a three(four) year BSc degree in no less than four(five) years.

- (c) Candidates who do not satisfy (a) and (b) but who are in possession of a senior certificate with a full matriculation endorsement and have attempted Mathematics and at least one of Computer Studies, Physical Science, Biology or Agriculture may apply for entry into the Science Foundation Programme. A pass in this Foundation Programme qualifies the candidate for entry into a BSc programme.

- (d) The minimum requirements for entry into the B.Sc (Agriculture) programme are:
 - (i) a full matriculation endorsement or its equivalent,
 - (ii) a minimum of 26 matriculation points, and
 - (iii) a pass of at least 40 % (E symbol) at the higher grade (HG) or 60 % (C symbol) at the standard grade (SG) in Mathematics, and at least one of Computer Studies, Physical Science, Biology or Agriculture in the Senior Certificate examination or its equivalent.

- (e) The minimum requirements for entry into the B.Consumer Sciences programmes are:

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

- (i) a full matriculation endorsement or its equivalent,
- (ii) a pass in Biology, or physical science or Home Economics/Consumer studies or agriculture of at least D standard grade/E Higher grade,
- (iii) a pass in English at 40% (E) HG or D Standard Grade

B. Consumer Science (Hospitality and Tourism)

- (i) a full matriculation endorsement or its equivalent,
- (ii) a pass in English at E Higher grade or D standard grade

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

B.Cur

- (i) a full matriculation endorsement or its equivalent
- (ii) a minimum of 26 matric points.
- (iii) a pass in each of English and Biology of at least a D(HG).

B Cur (E et A)(3 year)

- (i) a full matriculation endorsement or its equivalent
- (ii) current registration with the SANC as professional nurse and midwife.

s2 Progression requirements

- (a) A three (four) year qualification may be completed in a maximum time of five(six) years.
- (b) Candidates may register for a module only if all prerequisite requirements for that module have been satisfied.
- (c) In all semesters of registration the maximum load will be 64 credits per semester. Any deviation from this will require the Executive Dean's approval.

- (d) Students may proceed to a
 - (i) level-2 module provided they have obtained at least 64 credits at level 1 including 32 credits which are compulsory for their chosen programme or major,
 - (ii) level-3 module provided they have passed all level-1 modules and at least two level-2 modules (32 credits) which are compulsory for their chosen programme or major.
- (e) Students will not normally be allowed to register for two or more modules that are in the same time-table block.

s3 Assessment

(a) **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.

(b) **Duly Performed (DP) requirements**

Students will **not** be permitted to write the final examination in a module if they fail to satisfy the minimum faculty requirements: 30% Continuous Assessment Mark (CAM) and 80% attendance (or higher as specified by the department) at practicals, field work, tutorials, or as otherwise stated in the syllabus section, for that module. Departments may have additional requirements over and above these requirements.

(c) **Pass Mark**

To pass a module a final mark of 50% is required (a final exam has a subminimum of 40 %). The final mark is based on the final examination mark and the CAM. The components that contribute to the CAM for each module are indicated in the relevant syllabi. A sub-minimum mark may be required in certain components of the CAM as indicated in the syllabus for that module.

(d) **Supplementary Examinations**

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

- (ii) If a student has been granted supplementary examinations in no more than two modules and has failed another module with a mark of at least 30% then the student shall be permitted to write a supplementary examination in this module provided that passing all these exams will enable the student to graduate immediately thereafter or in the subsequent semester.
- (iii) Students who write supplementary exams may not be awarded a final mark of more than 50 %

S4 Attainment and conferment of degree

A three (four) year qualification must be completed in a maximum time of five (six) years. Students, who have satisfied all the academic requirements of the programme, including the corequisite requirements, will be deemed to have completed the degree. 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.

S5 Exclusion rules

Students who fail to obtain the minimum credits at the end of each semester, as tabulated below, and are unable to propose an academic plan acceptable to Senate to obtain the minimum credits shall be excluded from the Faculty.

S E M	MAINSTREAM	AUGMENTED	YEAR
	YRS 2-5: 80 per yr with 32 per sem YR 6: 128 with 64 per sem.	YRS 3-6: 64 per yr with 32 per sem YR7: 128 with 64 per sem	
1	16	16xxx	1
2	64	64xxx	
3	96	96xxx	2
4	144	128	
5	176	160	3
6	224 (64 at level-2)	192 (32 at level-2)	
7	256	224	4
8	304 (96 at level-2 and 48 at level-3)	256 (96 at level-2 or level-3)	

9	336	288	
10	384 (3-year qualification complete) (4-year qualification: 96 at level-3)	320 (64 at level-3)	5
11	448	352	
12	512 (4-year qualification complete)	384 (3-year qualification complete) (4-year qualification: 96 at level-3)	6
13		448	
14		512 (4-year qualification complete)	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 programme (in another Faculty) in which the student is registered.