



University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

Bachelor of Veterinary Sciences [BVSc] (08130005)

Department Veterinary Science Dean's Office

Minimum duration of study 6 years

Total credits 833

NQF level 08

Programme information

This programme is accredited with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC), Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC).

Each student must apply immediately after registration at UP, to the Registrar of the South African Veterinary Council for registration as a student in Veterinary Science. Registration is compulsory and must be renewed annually for the duration of the study.

After the degree has been conferred, graduates are required to register with the South African Veterinary Council as veterinarians before they may practise in South Africa in this capacity.

After completing the degree a Compulsory Community Service (CCS) year is required by the state. Graduates will be employed for one year of Compulsory Community Service by the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD). More information can be obtained from DALRRD.

Also refer to General Regulations G1-G15.

Admission requirements

Important information for all prospective students for 2025

The admission requirements below apply to all who apply for admission to the University of Pretoria with a **National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Independent Examination Board (IEB) qualifications**. [Click here for this Faculty Brochure](#).

Enquiries: [click here](#)

Minimum requirements

Achievement level

English Home

Language or

English First

Additional

Language

NSC/IEB

5

Mathematics

NSC/IEB

5

Physical Sciences

NSC/IEB

5

APS

35

Proposed second choice programmes for Bachelor of Veterinary Science are Bachelor of Science *Zoology*

and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Animal Science. These programmes are also recommended for applicants who intend to apply again for a transfer to the Bachelor of Veterinary Science programme in 2025 or later. **Note:** Students who intend to apply for admission to Bachelor of Veterinary Science may register for Bachelor of Science *Zoology* or Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Animal Science modules, including Medical Terminology (MTL 180).

Life Orientation is excluded when calculating the APS.

Applicants currently in Grade 12 must apply with their final Grade 11 (or equivalent) results.

Applicants who have completed Grade 12 must apply with their final NSC or equivalent qualification results.

Please note that meeting the minimum academic requirements does not guarantee admission.

Successful candidates will be notified once admitted or conditionally admitted.

Applicants should check their application status regularly on the UP Student Portal at [click here](#).

Applicants with qualifications other than the abovementioned should refer to the International undergraduate prospectus 2025: Applicants with a school leaving certificate not issued by Umalusi (South Africa), available at [click here](#).

International Students: [Click here](#).

Transferring students

A transferring student is a student who, at the time of applying at the University of Pretoria (UP) is/was a registered student at another tertiary institution. A transferring student will be considered for admission based on NSC or equivalent qualification and previous academic performance. Students who have been dismissed from other institutions due to poor academic performance will not be considered for admission to UP.

Closing dates: Same as above

Returning students

A returning student is a student who, at the time of application for a degree programme is/was a registered student at UP, and wants to transfer to another degree at UP. A returning student will be considered for admission based on NSC or equivalent qualification and previous academic performance.

- Students who have been excluded/dismissed from a faculty due to poor academic performance may be considered for admission to another programme at UP, as per faculty-specific requirements.
- Only ONE transfer between UP faculties and TWO transfers within a faculty will be allowed.
- Admission of returning students will always depend on the faculty concerned and the availability of space in the programmes for which they apply.

Closing date for applications from returning students is the same as the above

Note: Any deliberate omission of information, or any false information provided by an applicant in his/her application or on the Veterinary Science Value-added Form (VSVAF) may result in the immediate cancellation of the application, admission or registration.

Additional requirements

Refer to the undergraduate admission regulation of the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Examinations and pass requirements

The following rules apply to undergraduate programmes in the faculty, with the exception of pass requirements of service modules presented by other faculties:



Also refer to UP General Academic Regulations and General Student Rules

- i. Attendance of all lectures, practicals and clinical duties is compulsory. Absence must be justified by submission of a medical certificate or valid documentation, within three working days after returning. Failure to comply may lead to examination refusal.
- ii. Students in all undergraduate programmes in the faculty must register for all modules in a particular year of study and may not deregister modules.
- iii. A student who fails one or more modules fails the particular year of study and must repeat the failed module(s) before being promoted to the next year of study.
- iv. In addition to clause iii., a fourth, fifth or final year student in the BVSc programme or a second year student in the BVetNurs programme who fails a module or modules, has to repeat, all the modules for that particular year of study, except modules which were passed with a final mark of 65% or more, for which full exemption is granted during the repeat year.
- v. For students repeating the fourth, fifth or sixth year of the BVSc programme, or the second year of the BVetNurs programme, exemption from the examination is granted for a module that was passed in the previous (failed) year if all lectures, practicals and/or clinical duties were attended and a year/semester mark of at least 50% was obtained in the repeat year.
- vi. The semester/year mark and examination mark contributes 50% each towards the final mark for all modules with examinations.
- vii. A student is required to obtain a minimum semester/year mark of 40%, a minimum of 40% in the examination as well as a final mark of at least 50% to pass a module. A subminimum of 40% in subdivisions of theoretical and/or practical examinations may be required as stipulated by the Dean in consultation with the head of department concerned, and as set out in the study guide.
- viii. The content, format and duration of the supplementary, extraordinary, and/or special examination will be similar to that of the examination, except for oral examinations, where the supplementary, extraordinary, and/or special examination may be in a different format.
- ix. Semester tests and examinations are conducted as stipulated in the Faculty Calendar.
- x. A student applies for admission to an extraordinary assessment using the Faculty's relevant standard operating procedure which is managed by student administration.

Exclusion

- xi. A student who is not permitted to re-register in terms of UP General Academic Regulation G3.2 a) and b) is automatically excluded at the end of the academic year.
- xii. A student who fails a particular year of study for the second time is automatically excluded.

Re-admission and dismissal

- xiii. A student who has been excluded may apply online by the specified deadline to the Faculty Appeals Committee for consideration for re-admission, failing which the student is dismissed.
- xiv. The Faculty Appeals Committee has discretion to either readmit an excluded student, or to deny the appeal, in which case the student is dismissed.

Practical/clinical/internship information

Clinical experience (including practical work)

Proof of satisfactory completion of prescribed clinical and practical components of the programme as prescribed in the relevant study guide(s) must be submitted to the relevant Head of Department : prior to the commencement of the examinations. Failure to do so may lead to examination refusal.



Pass with distinction

The BVSc degree is conferred with distinction on a student who has obtained a cumulative weighted average (not rounded) of at least 75% over the last three years of study. The cumulative weighted average is calculated as the average score of the weighted averages per year of the last 3 academic years as indicated on a student's academic record.



Curriculum: Year 1

Minimum credits: 122

Fundamental modules

Academic information management 111 (AIM 111) - Credits: 4.00

Academic information management 121 (AIM 121) - Credits: 4.00

Language and study skills 110 (LST 110) - Credits: 6.00

Academic orientation 108 (UPO 108) - Credits: 0.00

Core modules

Biometry 120 (BME 120) - Credits: 16.00

Chemistry 151 (CMY 151) - Credits: 16.00

Introductory genetics 161 (GTS 161) - Credits: 8.00

Molecular and cell biology 111 (MLB 111) - Credits: 16.00

Medical terminology 180 (MTL 180) - Credits: 8.00

Physics for biology students 131 (PHY 131) - Credits: 16.00

Veterinary professional life 101 (VPL 101) - Credits: 4.00

Mathematics 165 (WTW 165) - Credits: 16.00

Animal diversity 161 (ZEN 161) - Credits: 8.00



Curriculum: Year 2

Minimum credits: 128

** VPL 122 is not included when calculating credits: this is the online version of VPL 101 only applicable to students admitted to the BVSc programme in the second year.

Core modules

Animal production systems and principles of breeding 200 (VAP 200) - Credits: 8.00

Veterinary comparative anatomy 201 (VCA 201) - Credits: 28.00

Veterinary microbiology 210 (VEM 210) - Credits: 6.00

Veterinary ethology 202 (VET 202) - Credits: 18.00

Veterinary immunology 220 (VIM 220) - Credits: 6.00

Principles of animal nutrition 224 (VKU 224) - Credits: 12.00

Veterinary physiology and histology 200 (VPH 200) - Credits: 33.00

Veterinary professional life 122 (VPL 122) - Credits: 4.00

Veterinary professional life 201 (VPL 201) - Credits: 5.00

Pasture science 213 (WDE 213) - Credits: 12.00



Curriculum: Year 3

Minimum credits: 128

Core modules

General surgery 310 (GNS 310) - Credits: 7.00

General and organ pathology 300 (GOP 300) - Credits: 30.00

Introductory veterinary diagnostics 300 (IVD 300) - Credits: 20.00

Veterinary toxicology 300 (TOX 300) - Credits: 14.00

Veterinary infectious diseases 300 (VIP 300) - Credits: 14.00

Ethnoveterinary medicine 310 (VME 310) - Credits: 3.00

General veterinary pharmacology 300 (VPH 300) - Credits: 14.00

Veterinary professional life 301 (VPL 301) - Credits: 6.00

Veterinary parasitology 300 (VTP 300) - Credits: 20.00



Curriculum: Year 4

Minimum credits: 134

Core modules

Anaesthesiology 420 (ANV 420) - Credits: 7.00

Clinical pathology 410 (CLP 410) - Credits: 7.00

Diagnostic imaging 400 (DIM 400) - Credits: 14.00

Diagnostic pathology 401 (DPT 401) - Credits: 12.00

Veterinary epidemiology 420 (EPL 420) - Credits: 10.00

Equine medicine and surgery 400 (EQM 400) - Credits: 19.00

Small animal medicine and surgery 410 (SAS 410) - Credits: 21.00

Small animal medicine and surgery 420 (SAS 420) - Credits: 23.00

Veterinary professional life 401 (VPL 401) - Credits: 7.00

Veterinary reproduction 400 (VRP 400) - Credits: 14.00



Curriculum: Year 5

Minimum credits: 161

Core modules

Diagnostic pathology 511 (DPT 511) - Credits: 12.00

Porcine health and production 510 (PHP 510) - Credits: 5.00

Poultry health and production 510 (PLY 510) - Credits: 5.00

Ruminant medicine and surgery 510 (RUM 510) - Credits: 24.00

Ruminant production medicine and herd health 511 (RUM 511) - Credits: 16.00

Veterinary core practice 520 (VCP 520) - Credits: 52.00

Veterinary elective practice 520 (VEP 520) - Credits: 8.00

One health 510 (VOH 510) - Credits: 4.00

Veterinary public health 510 (VPH 510) - Credits: 14.00

Veterinary professional life 511 (VPL 511) - Credits: 8.00

Veterinary research report 520 (VRE 520) - Credits: 8.00

African wildlife management and conservation 510 (WMC 510) - Credits: 5.00



Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 160

Core modules

Veterinary core practice 610 (VCP 610) - Credits: 52.00

Veterinary core practice 620 (VCP 620) - Credits: 52.00

Veterinary elective practice 610 (VEP 610) - Credits: 24.00

Veterinary elective practice 620 (VEP 620) - Credits: 16.00

Veterinary research report 600 (VRE 600) - Credits: 16.00

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.