

# The National Senior Certificate and further study

## Minimum Requirements for Entry into Higher Education Study

The old Endorsement or Matric Exemption system no longer applies. A new grading system (see below) is in place. Please note that these are the minimum requirements, and that any tertiary institution may have additional requirements such as the need for specific subjects for particular courses.

### Higher Certificate Courses

National Senior Certificate with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching of the higher education institution. *These courses are offered by various FET Colleges in a wide range of fields, e.g. Damelin, Boland College.*

### Diploma Courses

National Senior Certificate with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching of the higher education institution. This is coupled with an achievement rating of 3 (Moderate Achievement, 40-49%) or better in four recognised NSC subjects. *These courses are offered by FET Colleges and Universities of Technology.*

### Bachelor's Degrees

National Senior Certificate with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching of the higher education institution. This is coupled with an achievement rating of 4 (Adequate Achievement) 50 – 59% in four designated subjects (excluding Life Orientation). All of the subjects offered at Somerset College are on the list of designated subjects. *These Degrees are offered by Universities and some Universities of Technology.*

Please note that the 30% minimum is the pass mark that applies to languages offered at First Additional Language level. The pass mark in languages offered at Home Language level is 40%.

## Stellenbosch University admission requirements

**PLEASE NOTE: Degree programmes in faculties may have additional admission requirements and some faculties require more than the minimum admission requirements.**

- A national Senior Certificate as certified by Umalusi
- A level pass in four subjects designated for university study (We only offer designated subjects at Somerset College)
- Write Stellenbosch University's Access Tests (ATs) specified for the programmes you wish to apply for.
- An aggregate of at least 50% for the ATs and NSC combined in a ratio of 40:60

LEVELS	3	4	5	6	7
%	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-100

**Closing Dates:** 31 July for selection courses; 31 September for non-selection courses

### Application procedure

**Step 1:** Apply with your Grade 11 final exam marks on the grounds of which Stellenbosch University (SU) will consider you for conditional admission.

**Step 2:** You will receive a student number and information on the access tests (ATs). In the information package we will include a booking form which can be used to book your place. Remember, you cannot write the ATs without a student number. IMPORTANT, bookings close 2 weeks before test date.

**Step 3:** Now book your place in the ATs. Send your booking form via fax to 021 886 4365, email to [tqt@sun.ac.za](mailto:tqt@sun.ac.za), or book online.

**Step 4:** Write the ATs according to your bookings.

**Step 5:** For matriculants of 2008 and thereafter, the AT point will carry a weight of 40% and your matric results a weight of 60% for admission to SU. As soon as your average AT mark is available, we will mail it to you to enable you to determine what your National Senior Certificate (NSC) average should be to qualify for basic admission according to the 40:60 ratio. You can also get your AT average online. You have to achieve an average of at least 50% for the ATs and the NSC together in abovementioned 40:60 ratio, obtain the NSC with university admission, and comply with the faculty- and programme-specific admissions and selection requirements to be able to register

## The University of Cape Town admission requirements

**PLEASE NOTE: Degree Programmes in faculties may have additional admission requirements and some faculties require more than the minimum admission requirements.**

The university uses an admissions rating system to measure academic achievement by converting subject symbols into points, then adding the points together to see whether a student can be considered for entry into a faculty or a programme in a faculty. The number of points required is not the same in every faculty. Faculties also differ as to which school-leaving subjects are required for admission, and how they convert symbols into points.

<b>ACHIEVEMENT RATING</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
7 at 95% or better	8
7 at 80% or better	7
6	6
5	5
4	4
3	3
2	0
1 below 30%	0

**Closing Dates:** 31 October, but it is advisable to apply much earlier.

## Cape Town University of Technology admission requirements

A National Senior Certificate (NSC) as certified by Umalusi (or equivalent) with an achievement rating of 3 (Moderate Achievement: 40-49%) or better in four recognized NSC 20-credit subjects, an achievement rating of 2 for Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy, an achievement rating of 3 in the required official language at Home Language level and an achievement rating of 2 in the other required language on at least First Additional Language level; one of these languages shall be English or Afrikaans. Specific minimum requirements for a course (subjects required/recommended, achievement rating, portfolio to be submitted, interview in Cape Town, evaluation tests, or experience required) may apply to each course. Minimum admission requirements may be adjusted at the discretion of the Dean, subject to the approval of the Faculty Board and the Senate of the University.

Three years full-time study leads to the award of a National Diploma. National Diploma studies constitute complete study programmes, meet specific business needs and serve as recognised

exit levels. The National Diploma leads to the Baccalaureus in Technology (BTech) or to a National Higher Diploma (NHD). Admission to these one-year programmes (full time) may be subject to additional minimum admission requirements, which may include a minimum pass mark in the third year of the National Diploma programme. Most BTech and NHD programmes are also offered part time over two years.

**Closing dates:** 31 August  
(closing date for design portfolios is 31 July)

## **Access Tests : Stellenbosch and UCT**

In order to gain admittance to UCT or Stellenbosch University, students have to write the access tests (ATs) of the University. The only exception is prospective students in MBChB, B in Occupational Therapy, BSc in Physiotherapy and BSc in Dietetics, who have to write the National Health Sciences placement test. You will not be able to register if you did not write the access or Health Science Placement Test.

### **Battery of Access Tests: Stellenbosch (ATs)**

- The ATs measure preparedness for study at university in terms of generic language, numeracy and thinking skills, and in terms of curriculum-based skills in Mathematics and Physical Sciences.
- The purpose of the ATs is to provide a measure that is unique to the University according to which levels of readiness are measured, important supplementary information is provided and the results of the NSC are calibrated. AT sessions are offered at more than 30 centres countrywide in the course of the year.
- The combinations of tests to be written by the applicant are determined by the applicant's first programme choice.

### **Language**

- All applicants must write both the languages of the ALT (English *and* Afrikaans).
- If the applicant writes the test combinations Academic Literacy (Afrikaans *and* English) and two other tests (Mathematics, Numeracy Skills, Physical Sciences or Thinking Skills), the best results for the languages (Afrikaans *or* English) will be used together with the other two tests to calculate the average for the AT.
- The average AT mark for applicants who write the test combination Academic Literacy and Thinking Skills and who offer Afrikaans Home Language or First Additional Language as school subject will be calculated on the basis of the results in both the languages and Thinking Skills. For applicants who do not present Afrikaans as a subject in Grade 12, or who take Afrikaans as Second Additional Language, the best test results (English *or* Afrikaans) will be used for the calculation of the AT average.

### **Battery of Access Tests: UCT (AARP)**

#### **National Health Sciences placement test**

- Each applicant will write FOUR tests:
- The **Placement Test in English for Educational Purposes (PTEEP)** is a two hour and 15 minute English test that examines the general use of English language in a number of exercises. For example, candidates are asked to identify several core statements about

a piece of writing as either true or false, then write a summary.

**The Mathematics Achievement test (MACH)** is a one and-a-half hour test that has been designed to determine the level of mathematical competency of students. This one-and-a-half hour test relies heavily on the mathematical knowledge and skills you have already learnt at school.

**The Mathematics Comprehension Test (MCOM)** is a one and-a-half hour that has been designed to examine students on their ability to learn and apply mathematical knowledge, rather than test their knowledge of high school mathematics

**The Reasoning Test (RT)** is a one and-a-quarter hour test that is designed to assess a student's capacity to think scientifically, and be analytical and critical in the manner expected of a university student. No special preparation is required for any of the AARP tests.

- The basic cost to the candidate is R200.00, if s/he takes the tests inside South Africa. International candidates must pay an additional R150.00

## **AARP**

- It is **important to note** that a candidate should attempt to apply first to UCT before writing the tests. If this is not possible then a candidate can attend the testing session but must apply as soon as possible thereafter. Where it is possible, the candidate should take their allocated applicant number to the testing session.
- The morning session consists of a 2¼ hrs English language academic skills test, which is written if you have applied for admission to any faculty on campus.
- Applicants to the Humanities and Law Faculties write only the PTEEP.
- Applicants to the Faculties of Commerce, Science, Engineering & the Built Environment write the PTEEP, MCOM and MACH.
- Applicants to the Health Sciences Faculty must write the PTEEP, MCOM, MACH, and the RT.
- Your results will be sent by the AARP to the faculties to which you have applied. This includes the faculty of first and second choice as specified on your application forms. The faculties use your results on the test as well as other results which you have supplied them with for the process of selection into their various programmes.

## **The GAP year option**

A Gap year can be very powerful for personal and career development. A Gap year is most constructive when it is carefully and thoroughly planned and explored. You should leave the year feeling fulfilled and that you've learned about yourself, life and the opportunities out there. We have close ties with Tutors World Wide, an organization that sources boarding house and teaching assistants to private schools in England, Australia, or elsewhere.

There are numerous options – locally and abroad, but it is important to remember that planning is everything when it comes to a GAP year

Note of caution: there have been sweeping changes to the UK visa regulations. The equivalent

of the “working holiday” visa, so popular with young South Africans, is no longer available to our young people. Their only current option for working in the UK after their university degree is either under the “Highly Skilled Migrant Programme” (points-based) or through company sponsorship. The gap year will hopefully continue to stand outside these new restrictions, so will truly offer a unique opportunity to spend “unfettered” time in the UK as a young person. None of us can predict what further visa changes may take place. Of course those with an EU/UK passport or access to an ancestral visa will continue to enjoy open access.

Questions to ask:

Where do you want to go? How will you get there? How much will it cost? Are you going to work? What insurance do you need? What do you need to sort out before you go? There are four basic options:

- working holiday (tutoring, coaching, summer camps)
- different volunteering projects (Aids awareness, environmental projects)
- travelling
- academic gap year (universities/language courses).

## **1. Resources**

We have a Career Resource Library located at the Learner Development Unit. Learners are welcome to browse through material during break times. Alternatively they can schedule an appointment to meet with Mrs Visser.

**On the 10<sup>th</sup> of March we will be hosting a careers morning. Learners and parents will have the opportunity to speak to student admission officers of the tertiary institutions and obtain information on courses.**

**March 2009**