

**University of KwaZulu-Natal**  
**College of Health Sciences**

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SELECTION OF MBCHB STUDENTS**

The selection and admission process at UKZN is a formalized process based on the following principles:

1. Minimum requirements for the qualifications are set and strictly applied.
2. Students are selected with student success in mind.
3. Selection process is governed by a set of transparent criteria to which the CHS will be held accountable.
4. Admission is accessible by applicants from all racial groups. The university is also committed to redress past inequities with regards to accessing health care, in line with both the national and provincial transformation agenda.
5. To promote social cohesion and broad economic development in rural areas, in line with the National Development Plan, selection ensures that sufficient applicants from rural areas in South Africa are admitted.
6. Selection makes provision for inclusion of 'Mature' students who are studying towards a degree or have completed their degrees in order to provide access to students who may not have been selected initially, but who have subsequently demonstrated success at Tertiary level.
7. Access to mature students may promote building research capacity within health professional graduates so as to enhance development of future Clinical Academics, as well as to promote evidence based best practice in health systems and care. Mature students are studying towards a degree or would have completed their Bachelor degree / postgraduate studies in the form of masters and PHD degrees in a relevant qualification in this context.
8. The selection process applies a merit system to ensure that top applicants in all numerical equity target groups are admitted.
9. The selection and admission process is a strictly defined process which is applied by qualified Professional Services Staff with oversight from the selection committee comprised of three Deans and student representatives, and does not allow for preferential treatment or discretionary favouritism.
10. To ensure accountability to the process, the Selection and Admission guideline will be approved by the College Academic Affairs Board (CAAB), and the admission outcome will be reported to the CAAB each year.
11. To ensure accountability, at the end of the registration period; the relevant Dean will check and compare accuracy of admissions, by checking the class lists at the start of the year and final registration list against the approved lists of accepted students.

All Applications - with the exception of current UKZN students and SADC foreign applicants as defined in the guidelines - have to be submitted via the Central Applications Office (CAO) after which their applications will be processed by the College of Health Sciences Office. The closing date for application for MBChB is 30 June.

Non Fee Paying Schools (NFPS) (Quintile 1, 2 and 3) are defined and ranked by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and for an applicant to be considered in this category, the applicant should have been in a NFPS from grade 10 to grade 12. At the time of selection, the CHS will utilize the latest upgraded version of ranking as provided by the DBE.

To be eligible as a candidate from a defined rural district in South Africa, the applicant must have been residing in that district from grade 10 to grade 12. Proof of residence in the area will be needed and school

attendance in the rural area will be verified by the relevant School. All these documents should be submitted via CAO at the time of application.

**A. Basic Requirements for Selection and Admission into MBChB:**

- UKZN is governed by a SADC agreement to accept applicants from countries in the region without a medical school, and a limited number of places are reserved for these applicants.
- The CHS at UKZN is currently accredited by the HPCSA to train a first year intake of 250 students.
- Students that apply for MBChB admission are made up of 'National Senior Certificate' (NSC) or equivalent applicants and 'Mature' applicants.
- International students are not considered for the MBChB programme, i.e. only SA citizens are eligible for admission, with the exception of the SADC agreement students.
- Only Candidates who sit for the Grade 12 examinations during the year of application as well as candidates who have completed their NSC up to two years previously, but have not studied at a tertiary institution will be considered as NSC applicants. These students should not have written exams/tests/assessments at such an institution.
- To be eligible for placement in the MBChB programme, all candidates (including mature) must have achieved a minimum of 60% (level 5) in each of the following subjects, with an aggregate of 65%:
  1. Mathematics
  2. Physical Science
  3. Life Sciences
  4. English
- In addition to the above, it is a legal requirement of the National Higher Education Department to have done Life Orientation for entrance into a University. In compliance with this, a level 4 pass (minimum 50%) has to be achieved in Life Orientation to be eligible to apply for placement.
- Candidates who previously did not meet the above NSC requirements and upgraded will not be eligible to apply for placement.

**Composition of First Year MBChB Group:**

1. Five (5) places (2%) are reserved as per the SADC agreement for applicants from Lesotho. These applications are channelled via the Lesotho Ministry. If these places are not taken up, the balance of places are included into the rest of the placement process.
2. Eighty three (83) places (33%) are reserved for Quintile 1, 2 and 3 Non-Fee Paying Schools (NFPS).
3. Out of the 83 places reserved for NFPS as explained above, Forty (40) of the 83 places are specifically selected drawn from the 12 districts in KZN. The remaining 43 can be drawn from all NFPS schools in the rest of the country on merit
5. Forty (40) places are selected from the Mature Student Group which is categorized as follow:
  - 5.1 Nine (9) places will be allocated to those students that completed the National Senior Certificate/Matriculation/Grade12 examination and are studying towards a relevant BSc/BMdSc/Health Sciences degree at a recognised University in South Africa. In this transfer group, students will be selected from applicants who has completed the relevant years on merit with the minimum achieved aggregate of 80% when in the first year of study, 75% when in the second year of study and 70% when in the third year of study. The places for applicants from B Pharm will be limited to four (4) and the remaining five (5) places will be allocated to applicants

from other BSc/BMSc/Health Sciences disciplines. Candidates who have failed or had a supplementary exam will not be eligible to apply. When there are insufficient applicants that qualify with the minimum merit requirements per year group the places will be offered to another year group, starting from year three to year one, *i.e.* 3<sup>rd</sup> years, 2<sup>nd</sup> years and then if there are still places 1<sup>st</sup> years.

- 5.2 Nine (9) places will be allocated to those students that completed the National Senior Certificate/Matriculation/Grade12 examination and have completed a relevant BSc or BMSc degree at a recognised University in South Africa; and achieved an aggregate above 65% for their degree. Candidates who have failed or had a supplementary exam will not be eligible to apply. In this allocation 4 places will be allocated to BSc applicants and 5 to BMSc applicants.
  - 5.3 Nine (9) places will be allocated to those students that completed the National Senior Certificate/Matriculation/Grade12 examination and have completed a relevant science postgraduate degree (PhD, Masters, Hons, PG Dip) or health sciences postgraduate degree (PhD, Masters) at a recognised University in South Africa (including Universities of Technology); and achieved an aggregate above 65% for their degree. Candidates who have failed or had a supplementary exam in their latest qualification will not be eligible to apply.
  - 5.4 Nine (9) places will be allocated to those students that completed the National Senior Certificate/Matriculation/Grade12 examination and have completed a health sciences degree including nursing, at a recognised University in South Africa; and achieved an aggregate above 65% for their degree. Candidates who have failed or had a supplementary exam will not be eligible to apply.
  - 5.5 Four (4) places will be allocated to those students that completed the National Senior Certificate/Matriculation/Grade12 examination and have completed an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in engineering, commerce or law at a recognised University in South Africa; and achieved an aggregate above 65% for their degree. Candidates who have failed or had a supplementary exam in their latest qualification will not be eligible to apply.
6. The remainder of the available places, *i.e.* 122, will be offered to applicants who have completed the NSC or equivalent. These applicants are selected based on the specified numerical equity targets and their performance at School. All applicants will be offered conditional places based on the aggregate for grade 11, grade 12 mid-year or grade 12 trial exams, with their final acceptance only confirmed once the final NSC results has confirmed that they maintained or improved their level of performance. The specified numerical equity targets will be applied as follows in this category:
- 69% of Africans
  - 19% Indians
  - 9% Coloureds
  - 2% Whites
  - 1% Other

**Table 1: KwaZulu-Natal District Population (“Census 2011: Municipalities Fact Sheet” – Statistics South Africa)**

District	Population	Percentage of KZN	Target per District
Amajuba	499 839	4.87	3
eThekweni Metropolitan	3 442 361	33.53	9
ILembe	606 809	5.91	3
Sisonke	461 419	4.49	2
Ugu	722 484	7.04	4
uMgungundlovo	1 017 763	9.91	4
uMkhanyakude	625 846	6.10	3
UMzinyathi	510 838	4.98	3
UThukela	668 848	6.51	3
UThungulu	907 519	8.84	3
Zululand	803 575	7.83	3

\*The eThekweni Metropolitan have the highest population number which will result in large numbers of students being selected from this district. In line with the National Health Strategy to promote doctors to become active outside metropolitan areas, the percentage allocated to the eThekweni was calculated at 50% of the total to allow training of more doctors from the rural districts. The 50% from eThekweni was equally redistributed amongst the other 10 districts.

#### **General merit ranking:**

Within each category above, all NSC applicants are ranked in order of performance based on the following criteria:

- The arithmetic average of six subjects which will include the four compulsory subjects, i.e. Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Sciences and English.
- Life Orientation is not included in the ranking of applicants.
- In cases where the candidate has done more than 6 subjects, the four compulsory subjects plus the highest score of two additional academic subjects will be used.
- Mathematics paper 3 will not be substituted for Mathematics and does not count as one of the six subjects for ranking.

In the mature category, all applicants will be ranked according to the numerical equity targets first, then according to their qualifications on merit.

Only students identified in the mature group as described in 5.1 will be permitted to transfer across programmes, when compliant with the minimum aggregate per year as stipulated. These students will be required to enter the MBChB programme in the first year of study.

A general cut-off point for age of applicants for MBChB will be 35.

#### **Pre-selection process:**

- Pre-selection for NSC applicants will be undertaken in August of the preceding year based on grade 11 and grade 12 midyear examination results.
- Seventy percent (70%) of available places will be pre-selected.

- The final preselection must be based on specified targets.
- Only first, second and third choice of candidates will be taken into consideration.
- Provisional offers will be made in September of the preceding year.
- Provisional offers will be honoured if the applicant **maintains or improves** on the results on the basis of which the preliminary offer was made.
- The approved criteria for subject pass rates should also be met, in addition to the aggregate score.

**Selection Process:**

Remaining places (30%) for NSC candidates will be filled early in January after final release of the NSC results.