

Selection guidelines and admission policy for undergraduate programmes

Faculty of AgriSciences

2026 intake

PURPOSE

This document provides the guidelines used in the application, selection, and admission procedures for undergraduate programmes offered by the Faculty of AgriSciences. The selection and admission procedures are followed in accordance with the Admission Policy of Stellenbosch University (SU).

APPLICATION DUE DATES

Applications close 31 July 2025 for the 2026 academic year.

RESULTS USED FOR SELECTION

Current Grade 12 applicants

If prospective students, at the time of their application, are in Grade 12, their final Grade 11 marks are used to decide whether they qualify for an offer from the Faculty of AgriSciences. This offer is conditional and subject to a candidate meeting the minimum requirements for the specific programme based on the applicant's Grade 12 results. If an applicant accepts the offer of the Faculty and meet the requirements of the particular programme based on their Grade 12 results, their conditional admission will be changed to final admission. If the applicants' Grade 12 results do not meet the admission requirements of the programme, the applicant can request to be considered for an Extended Curriculum Programme (ECP).

Matriculated applicants

If prospective students, at the time of application, have already completed Grade 12, their final Grade 12 results are used to determine their admission. If an applicant is selected and accepts the offer of the Faculty, final admission will be granted.

FOREIGN EXAMINATIONS

'School of Tomorrow' applicants: Admission of prospective students from the *School of Tomorrow* schooling system will be considered on the achievement of the following National Benchmark Test (NBT) results:

- Academic Literacy (AL) - 55%
- Quantitative Literacy (QL) - 55%
- Mathematics (MAT) - 50%

International qualifications: Applicants with international school qualifications must pass Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics at a comparable standard to the required NSC (Grade 12) level. Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics at IGSCE/GCSE/NSSC OL/O-level does not qualify for admission. All queries concerning international qualifications should be directed to the SU International Office (Tel 0218082565, E-mail interoff@sun.ac.za).

NATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS (NBT's): It is only compulsory for applicants who are completing a "School of Tomorrow" curriculum to write the NBTs. All other applicants do not write the NBTs.

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINSTREAM DEGREE PROGRAMMES

For mainstream Degree Programmes only applicants who meet the following requirements will be considered for selection:

Basic admission requirements to university study:

- A National Senior Certificate (NSC) or Independent Examinations Board (IEB) school-leaving certificate as certified by Umalusi with admission to bachelor's degree studies.
- A university exemption certificate issued by the South African Matriculation Board to students with other school qualifications.
- The minimum academic requirement for a bachelor's degree is:
 - 30% for a South African Language of Learning and Teaching (English or Afrikaans) and
 - An achievement rating of 4 (50% - 59%) in four 20-credit subjects
- Writing of the National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) required if School of Tomorrow applicant

Faculty specific requirements:

- An average of at least 60% in the NSC, IEB or relevant final school examination. The average is calculated by taking your highest score in Language of Learning and Teaching subject (English or Afrikaans) + (5 x best results in 20-credit subjects excluding Life orientation and Mathematics 3). The total divided by 6 equals your NSC average.
- Afrikaans or English (Home Language or First Additional Language) 4 (50%)
- Mathematics 5 (60%)
- Physical Sciences (Physics and Chemistry) 4 (50%)

In addition to the minimum admission requirements, admission to the program **BScFor (Wood and Wood Products Sciences)** requires a minimum of:

- Mathematics 6 (70%)
- Physical Sciences (Physics and Chemistry) 5 (60%)

For the **BAgric** program offered by Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute applicants need to meet the following requirements to be considered for selection:

- An average of at least 55% in the NSC, IEB or relevant final school examination. The average is calculated by taking your highest score in Language of Learning and Teaching subject (English or Afrikaans) + (5 x best results in 20-credit subjects excluding Life orientation and Mathematics 3). The total divided by 6 equals your NSC average.
- Afrikaans or English (Home Language or First Additional Language) 4 (50%)
- Mathematics 4 (50%) OR Mathematical Literacy 5 (60%)
- Physical Sciences (Physics and Chemistry) 4 (50%) OR
- Life Sciences 4 (50%) OR
- Agricultural Sciences 4 (50%)

Please note: The Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute does the selection of candidates to the BAgric programme and will communicate directly with applicants.

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTENDED CURRICULUM PROGRAMMES (ECP)

Any student who is admitted to a mainstream program, once the Grade 12 results have been released, may request to be considered for an ECP.

A student, based on school results may be advised or required by the Faculty to follow the ECP route. A maximum of 50 students per year are selected for the ECP programmes. Preference is given to applicants from disadvantaged socio-economic and schooling backgrounds.

Prospective students who received a conditional offer to mainstream programmes based on Grade 11 results, but whose final NSC or IEB results do not meet the minimum requirements of the relevant program, may submit a request for a transfer into an ECP if the applicant falls into one of the following categories:

	ECP in the programs leading to: BScAgric BScFor BScConsEcol BAgric (Agri-business Management):	ECP BScFor (Wood and Wood Products Sciences):
CATEGORY1	Average $\geq 55\%$ (Excluding Life Orientation)	Average $\geq 55\%$ (Excluding Life Orientation)
	Meet ALL other admission requirements	Meet ALL other admission requirements
CATEGORY2	Mathematics 4 (55% - 59.9%)	Mathematics 5 (60% - 69.9%)
	Meet ALL other admission requirements	Meet ALL other admission requirements
CATEGORY3	Physical Science 3 (45% - 49.9%)	Physical Science 4 (55% - 59.9%)
	Meet ALL other admission requirements	Meet ALL other admission requirements

THE SELECTION PROCESS

The Faculty has a target to enrol 450 new first-years in 2026. There are no set admission targets per programme but the intake of students over the 7 broader programmes offered in the Faculty will be managed carefully.

	Maximum number of offers (overbooking included)	Number of final registrations
Agricultural Economics	75	50
Animal Science	55	45
Conservation Ecology	55	45
Food Science	55	50
Forest and Wood Science	45	30
Plant & Soil Science	75	60
Viticulture & Oenology	50	40
Extended Curriculum program	50	50
BAgric (Elsenburg programme)	80	80

The principle of overbooking is applied to compensate for provisionally admitted applicants who do not take up the offer to register. The overbooking rate is reviewed annually to incorporate changing application and registration trends.

Selection takes place on the basis of academic merit only. Meeting the minimum requirements of the program applied for does NOT guarantee selection.

5. Selection Committee

Selection of prospective students is done by a selection committee, compiled by the dean of the faculty. All decisions regarding selection are approved by the dean prior to communication with the candidates and decisions are final. All enquiries regarding the selection process will be managed by the Faculty Administrator, Mr Erik van Zyl (erik@sun.ac.za).