

5.3.1.27 MMed Public Health Medicine MMed (PHM)

Specific admission requirements

The following specific admission requirement applies in addition to the general admission requirements for MMed programmes as mentioned in section 5.3.1 above:

- For MBChB graduates three years of supervised medical experience which may include the compulsory two years of internship and the year of community service.

Duration of programme

The programme extends over four years.

Programme content

All modules are compulsory.

Theoretical modules

Public Health (Core Learning)	871(80)
Public Health (Elective Learning)	872(136)
Research Assignment	820(120)

Please note:

The Public Health (Core Learning) and Public Health (Elective Learning) modules include coursework, ad hoc seminars or semi-structured learning, a short report, self-learning and elective learning (special interest areas) covering the content specified in the College of Public Health Medicine Guidelines and Regulations (www.cmsa.co.za).

Practical module

Supervised Training Exposure	873(144)
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Assessment and examination

- The MMed (Public Health Medicine) examination consists of two parts, namely:
 - the MMed research assignment (pass mark of at least 50%); and

- the successful completion of the examination of the College of Public Health Medicine of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) with a pass mark of at least 50% (weighted average for both the unseen component and overall). Details of the examination of the College of Public Health Medicine of the CMSA are available on the website of the CMSA at <http://www.cmsa.ac.za/>.

Please note:

Assessment and examination are in evolution and it is expected that workplace-based assessments will play a stronger role in future. Please regularly consult official public health medicine regulations and guidelines on the CMSA website to keep up to date with these changes.

- To gain entry to the CMSA examination you must at registration for the examination:
 - have obtained a minimum average pass mark of 50% for the MMed research assignment (as evaluated by one internal and one external examiner);
 - hand in the short research report as required by the College of Public Health Medicine of the CMSA; and
 - have been registered for at least three years in an Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) approved training post number.
- Flexible assessment of your progress is done by means of module assessments, as well as six-monthly progress reports as prescribed by the CMSA.
- On identification of inadequate progress, remedial steps will be implemented. Continuation of inadequate academic progress will result in you having to vacate the registrar training post.
- You must have at least four years of training time within a registrar training post and in an HPCSA approved training post number and have passed the CMSA examination in order to register as a specialist in Public Health Medicine.
- If you have not successfully completed the examination of the CMSA, Division of Public Health Medicine after four years of training time, an extension in training time and continuation of employment in a registrar post will only be considered on grounds of your written request, with valid reasons, to the Postgraduate Programme Committee of the Division of Health Systems and Public Health.

Enquiries

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5.3 Master's degrees

5.3.1 Master of Medicine

General admission and selection requirements for the MMed programmes

- The following apply to all MMed programmes:
 - For admission to the MMed degree programme, you must have held an MBChB degree from this University or another qualification considered as sufficient by this University for at least three years prior to application, and must be registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa as medical practitioner in the category independent practice.
 - If you specialise in Anaesthesiology, Neurosurgery, Emergency Medicine, Otorhinolaryngology, Orthopaedics, and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, you must also have completed suitable courses such as ATLS (Advanced Trauma Life Support), ACLS (Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support), PALS (Paediatric Advanced Life Support) and APLS (Advanced Paediatric Life Support). Consult the specific requirements at each programme.
 - If you would like to register as an MMed student with the University, you must occupy a registrar post with the Western Cape Provincial Department of Health and Wellness or the National Health Laboratory Services. Exceptions to this rule will be considered in the following instances:
 - where you register as an occasional student with the University (refer also to the section on admission as an occasional student in Part 1 (General Rules) of the Yearbook) with the sole purpose of attempting the primary subjects prior to registering as an MMed student and to obtaining a position as registrar; and
 - where you have completed your training time and you are only registering to complete your research assignment.
- If you apply for a training post at the Tygerberg Hospital, the Western Cape Provincial Department of Health and Wellness or another institution considered as equivalent by this University, you must make sure of the programme-specific recommendations which apply to your MMed programme. Direct any enquiries in this regard to the programme leader of your specific programme.

Application procedure and closing date

Apply in writing. Senate, or the Executive Committee acting on its behalf, will decide whether you are to be admitted to the MMed programme.

There is no specific closing date for applications. When a registrar post becomes vacant at the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, you apply for that position. If you are successful, you will then be admitted to the MMed programme.

Duration of programme

The training for the degree takes place over four or five years, depending on the requirements of the department/division under which your major subject falls. The term "major subject" refers to the recognised area of Medicine in which you choose to specialise.

You must successfully complete the full prescribed training period to register as a specialist with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). The University will only then provide the HPCSA with signed Forms 19 and 57 confirming that an MMed degree qualification can be added to your credentials.

If you are appointed as registrar between 1 January and 31 March of the relevant year, you will graduate at the December graduation ceremony directly preceding the completion of the specific four- or five-year prescribed training period, provided that you comply with all the academic requirements of the degree at that stage.

Clinical experience

As a candidate for the MMed degree you must prove to the satisfaction of the University that:

- you have successfully held a full-time training position according to the requirements of the relevant department/division for a period of four or five years at Tygerberg Hospital, the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness or another institution that the University deems equivalent.
- you have received theoretical, practical and clinical training as stipulated in the "Duration of programme" section above.
- you have successfully completed the single national exit examination of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA).

Exemption

- With regard to the work mentioned in the "Duration of programme" and "Clinical experience" paragraphs above, the University may grant possible partial or full exemption based on comparable training received and experience gained at another recognised institution.
- With regard to prescribed modules as mentioned in the section "Programme content" at the various MMed programmes below, the University may grant possible partial or full exemption based on modules passed at another recognised institution.

Continuation of study

- If you do not comply with the provisions relating to promotion of your specific MMed programme and you are denied the right to continue with your MMed studies, you must vacate your registrar post with the Western Cape Provincial Department of Health and Wellness or the National Health Laboratory Services. This ruling also applies to registrars in supernumerary posts.
- Only in exceptional cases, and with the submission of an appropriate motivation and approval of the departmental programme committee concerned, and the Committee for Postgraduate Teaching and the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, will you be allowed to register for the MMed programme once again.

Single national exit examination

- To register as a specialist with the HPCSA you must successfully complete the single national exit examination in your specific field of study. This is an examination independent from that of the University and has an additional cost implication for you.
- It still remains the responsibility of the teaching department at the University to confirm the following:
 - successful completion of prescribed training time and flexible assessment;
 - completion of a research assignment according to the regulations of the University; and
 - submission of a completed case-book.

These assessment components may vary for the different MMed programmes.

Programme description

The purpose of the qualification is to equip you as a basically qualified medical practitioner (with an MBChB or equivalent qualification) with specialised knowledge, as well as with the skills and attitudes required as a specialist in your chosen speciality, that at least agree with the requirements of the Health Professions Council of South Africa. This will enable you to function as an independent practitioner in the relevant field within any service-rendering and academic environment, by acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes to:

- deliver comprehensive healthcare in a conscientious manner to the patient as an individual and as a member of the community;
- develop the attitudes and abilities needed to become an independent learner and to accept the responsibility for continuous lifelong professional development, including the ability to critically evaluate and interpret the relevant literature and to apply it in the profession;
- plan, execute, interpret and publish research relevant to your chosen speciality;
- be able to move, if you so aspire, to the highest level of academic work for doctoral study and to promote an approach based on academic integrity and ethics; and
- contribute to the pool of academics and professionals with the competence and critical intellectual abilities to ensure the future advancement of your chosen speciality, and to make provision for the country's need for a skilled workforce of the highest quality and to ensure that the country remains competitive in an era of growing global competition.

Postgraduate programmes

For more specific information on the Faculty's postgraduate programmes, consult the University's webpage on Postgraduate Studies (<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/pgstudies/>) or the various departmental websites.

1. Programme offering

The following postgraduate diploma and degree programmes are presented by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences:

Postgraduate Diplomas	Abbreviation
Postgraduate Diploma in Addiction Care	PG Dip (Addiction Care)
Postgraduate Diploma in Disability and Rehabilitation Studies	PG Dip (Disability and Rehabilitation Studies)
Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine	PG Dip (Family Medicine)
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Care Management	PG Dip (Health Care Management)
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research Ethics	PG Dip (Health Research Ethics)
Postgraduate Diploma in Infectious Diseases	PG Dip (Infectious Diseases)
Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Toxicology	PG Dip (Medical Toxicology)
Postgraduate Diploma in Medicines Development	PG Dip (Medicines Development)
Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Medicine	PG Dip (Occupational Medicine)
Postgraduate Diploma in Rural Medicine	PG Dip (Rural Medicine)
Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing/Midwifery	PG Dip (Specialist Nursing/Midwifery)
Honours Degrees	Abbreviation
Bachelor of Science Honours	BScHons
Master's Degrees	Abbreviation
Master of Addiction Care	MAddiction Care
Master of Audiology	MAud
Master of Global Surgery	MGlobalSurg
Master of Human Rehabilitation Studies	MHumRehab
Master of Medicine	MMed
Master of Nursing	MNurs
Master of Occupational Therapy	MOccTher
Master of Pathology	MPath
Master of Philosophy	MPhil
Master of Physiotherapy	MPhysio
Master of Public Health Nutrition	MNutr in Public Health
Master of Science	MSc
Master of Speech-Language Therapy	MSpeech
Master of Therapeutic Nutrition	MTherNutr
Doctoral Degrees	Abbreviation
Doctor of Philosophy	PhD
Doctor of Science	DSc

2. Commencement of postgraduate studies

As postgraduate student you must register for your particular programme at the start of the academic year. The only programmes that still take on students at the start of the second semester are MMed programmes. If you are accepted for an MMed programme, you will be able to register at the start of the second semester. You can submit a request for exclusion from this rule to the Vice-Dean: Learning and Teaching, with special motivation.

3. Recognition of prior learning and credit accumulation and transfer (RPL&CAT)

Consult the RPL&CAT guidelines of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences for more information on the procedures and guidelines regarding the recognition of prior learning and credit accumulation and transfer in the Faculty. These guidelines are available at www.sun.ac.za/tygststudentadmin under "Policies and Guidelines".

4. Class fees

From 2010 class fees for all structured M degree programmes will be levied per module. Until further notice the class fees for MMed programmes will be levied per annum, as in the past, with the exception of the class fees for the MMed (Fam Med) programme which will be levied per module.

The class fees for the research modules within the structured M degree programmes will be spread over two years (70% of the class fees in the first year of registration and 30% in the second year) to prevent you from having to pay the full amount for two consecutive years. If you complete your research module within one year of study, you will therefore pay only 70% of the class fees for the specific module. But if you fail to complete the research module within the prescribed two years, you will pay, as of the third year of study, the full amount for the module.

If you register for a research master's degree, you must pay the full amount in the first year of study with a continuation levy in the second and third year. However, in the fourth and following years of study the continuation levy will double.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 Medicine and Health Sciences Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Medicine and Health Sciences Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section **1. Programme offering**.