

### **5.3.1.13 MMed Ophthalmology**

#### **MMed (Ophth)**

#### **Specific admission requirements**

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

- Recognition is given for previous training in that admission preference is given to candidates who have already completed the Primary Examination (Part I) of the College of Ophthalmologists of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (or equivalent).
- If you have completed the Diploma in Ophthalmology of the same colleges, you will benefit in the same manner.

## Duration of programme

The programme extends over four years.

## Programme description

During the first 24 months the focus of the programme will be on the mastery of the basic subjects forming the foundation of the specialty, i.e. head and neck anatomy, ophthalmic and applied general physiology, optics and pathology. Mastery of the advanced theory and its application to ophthalmology, as well as a comprehensive and specialised knowledge of general ophthalmology, advanced technical and procedural skills, familiarity with the literature and state of research on the subject of the specialty, will be the focus of the following 24 months of training. During the final year of study you must demonstrate a capacity for independent study and research by completing a research report or publication on a research topic of your choice in ophthalmology.

## Programme content

### FIRST AND SECOND YEAR

#### *Part I (Primary)*

All modules are compulsory. Full accreditation will be granted for these modules if you successfully complete the Part I (A and B) examinations of the College of Ophthalmologists of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa.

Optics	874(40)
Anatomy	874(40)
Physiology for Ophthalmology	871(40)
Pathology for Ophthalmology	876(40)

### THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR

#### *Part II (Final)*

Full accreditation will be granted for the Clinical Ophthalmology module if you successfully complete the Part II examination of the College of Ophthalmologists of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa.

Clinical Ophthalmology	875(200)
Research Assignment	824(120)

## Assessment and examination

- The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) requires that you successfully complete the single national exit examination of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa to register as a specialist.
- The Division of Ophthalmology accepts the Part I (A and B) and the Part II examinations of the College of Ophthalmologists as equivalent to and in place of the MMed (Ophth) examination.
- The HPCSA also requires the head of the discipline to confirm the following:
  - successful completion of clinical training time;
  - completion of portfolio of learning;
  - successful completion of the research assignment according to the regulations of the University; and
  - successful completion of flexible assessment.
- The final mark for the MMed degree is a composite mark of the result of the final examination of the College of Ophthalmologists and the mark for the research assignment in a ratio of 75:25.
- You must pass all four Part I modules within 24 months of first registration as a registrar in Ophthalmology.
- If you do not meet this requirement, you will be unable to continue with the MMed (Ophth) programme and you must vacate the registrar training post.
- Continuation of the programme and the registrar appointment may be considered by the Postgraduate Programme Committee of the Division only in exceptional circumstances and on submission of an applicable motivation.
- As a registrar you may attempt the Part II examination for the first time after having completed a minimum of 36 months of residency in a registrar post.
- But the registrar post must be vacated after 48 months.
- In exceptional cases and on submission of an applicable motivation, the Postgraduate Programme Committee of the Division may consider an extension of a maximum training period of 12 months.

You must successfully complete the final examination within these 12 months, or you will be excluded from the MMed (Ophth) programme.

## **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.

## Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2024 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 *Postgraduate programmes*.