
FACULTY OF ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

2026-Intake Selection Criteria and Process

(Last updated: 18 February 2025. The current online version on the faculty's website replaces all previous versions and is effective for the 2026-intake only.)

The Stellenbosch University (SU) Council sets targets for the total number of students in alignment with the principles of academic excellence through diversity and inclusivity. Faculties then manage the selection of prospective undergraduate students to reach these targets and to ensure that the total number of enrolments is within the available capacity. This means that there may be students who meet the minimum admission requirements for a given programme but are not selected. Thus, take careful note of the selection criteria which are specified in this document.

1. Application and selection process

1.1. Application due dates

Applications close on 31 July of the year before the intended commencement of studies. Typically, applicants apply while they are in Grade 12 with their final Grade 11 school results to be accepted in the following year. Note that students who already completed Grade 12, including those who want to transfer from other universities or from other SU faculties must also apply through the normal application process and will thus have to adhere to the application deadline and meet the minimum admission requirements and selection criteria as set out in this document and in the faculty's yearbook.

1.2. Conditional offers

If applicants, at the time of their application, are in Grade 12, the final Grade 11 results are used to decide whether they qualify for a conditional offer. The faculty will make conditional offers to applicants who meet the *minimum admission requirements* AND the *selection criteria* for the programme for which they applied. Refer to Table 1.

The conditional offer must be accepted by the applicant and will expire if it is not timeously accepted. Only applicants who have accepted conditional offers will be considered for final offers. Once the conditional offer is accepted, the applicant's status will change to "final offer pending" and the applicant will remain on this status for the time being.

1.3. Final offers

Final offers are only issued after the final Grade 12 results of the applicant becomes available (that is in January of the following year, which is also the intended year of commencement of studies). **Applicants will only receive a final offer if their final Grade 12 results meet both the *minimum admission requirements* AND the *selection criteria* of the programme for which they accepted a conditional offer.** If a final offer is issued, the applicant's status will change from "final offer pending" to "final offer issued". Once the final Grade 12 results have been released, applicants should regularly monitor the application portal to ensure they can accept the final offer timeously.

If prospective students, at the time of *application*, have already completed Grade 12, their final Grade 12 results are used to determine their admission status. If they meet both the *minimum admission requirements* AND the *selection criteria* of the programme, they will receive a final offer. In other words, these applicants will not receive a conditional offer, but advance to the final offer status immediately.

The applicant must accept the final offer before it expires. Note that the time period prior to expiry of the offer is relatively short, to enable the faculty to actively manage enrolment numbers.

1.4. Waiting lists

An applicant's status may temporarily show as "Waitlisted" while the faculty reviews applications for the specific application pool. Typically, students who meet the *minimum admission requirements* of a programme but not the *selection criteria* as specified in TABLE 1, will be on a "waitlisted" status. Normally these students will have to wait until end of October in an application year, before their status will be updated to either "conditional offer" or 'unsuccessful'.

2. Minimum admission requirements and selection criteria

2.1. National Senior Certificate and qualifications from other examination boards

This document generally refers the National Senior Certificate (NSC) results. However, the selection process also applies to students who completed an international curriculum, such as Cambridge, International Baccalaureate Higher Level and American High School Diploma. Stellenbosch University International converts the results of international and other curricula to the South African National Senior Certificate equivalent and the faculty uses the converted results in admission and selection processes. Marks obtained for the school-leaving certificate of the Independent Examination Board (IEB) are treated identically to marks obtained for the NSC. Therefore, IEB marks can be used instead of NSC marks.

The average achieved in TABLE 1 is calculated as the best six Grade 12 subjects, excluding Life Orientation.

2.2. How the selection criteria are determined and applied

To receive a conditional and/or final offer, a prospective student will always have to meet both the *minimum admission requirements* AND the *selection criteria* as set out in TABLE 1. The selection criteria are adjusted annually for a specific intake year, depending on the composition of the application pool. The selection criteria can be regarded as the highest/most stringent criteria that will be used for making decisions about making final offers for the 2026 application pool. Depending on the composition of the application pool, it is possible that the selection criteria could be lowered later in the year, but it will never be lowered to below the minimum admission requirements of the

programme. Should the selection criteria for the 2026 application pool be lowered from the criteria in TABLE 1, this document will be updated accordingly.

Should the faculty at the final offer stage not have reached its total intake target, and the diversity targets has also not be met, it is possible that the selection criteria can be lowered to firstly meet the diversity target, and after that the total intake target. Keep in mind that the minimum admission requirements will still have to be met, and the student must have accepted a conditional offer.

2.3. Articulation/change of programmes in the faculty

Students who were accepted and registered for a specific programme must take note of the following rules should they want to change to a different programme (articulation) in the faculty at a later stage:

1. No articulation is allowed *during* a specific academic year.
2. Should a student want to articulate to a programme at the beginning of the following academic year, WITH **HIGHER** MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION CRITERIA than those of their current programme, the request should meet the following requirements:
 - a. Students must still meet the **minimum admission requirements** of that programme with their Grade 12 results (but will **not need to meet the selection criteria**) AND,
 - b. Students should have passed all the modules registered for during the previous academic year.
 - c. Additional requirements are applicable in the following programmes: BCom (Actuarial Science), BAccounting and Extended Curriculum Programme (ECP). (Contact the programme leader or department for additional transfer regulations).
3. Should a student want to articulate to a different programme in the beginning of the following year, WITH **LOWER** MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION CRITERIA than those of their current programme, the following rules are used:
 - a. Students must meet the minimum admission requirements of the programme.

- b. Students must have permission from the SU and Faculty to continue their studies. For example, students who passed less than 50% of their module credits and were not readmitted according to the formal readmission appeals process, will not be able to continue their studies in any programme of the faculty.

2.4. Additional criteria for non-EMS transferring applicants

All applicants who are transferring from another faculty or another university to the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences will be waitlisted until their final results and record of conduct are available. The selection criteria as mentioned in Table 1 will also be applied to these applicants. In addition, the following will be considered:

- A. An applicant should submit a good record of conduct from the previous institution.
- B. If an applicant has been academically excluded at another institution or at another faculty of Stellenbosch University, the applicant should apply via the readmission process.
- C. The applicant should have passed at least 70% of the credits he/she had been registered for previously



Applicants who apply with their Grade 11 results must meet the minimum admission requirements and selection criteria with both their Grade 11 and Grade 12 results. Applicants who apply with their Grade 12 results must meet both the minimum admission requirements and selection criteria with their Grade 12 results.

TABLE 1: Summary of admission requirements and selection criteria

Programme	Minimum admission requirements	Selection criteria
BCom (Management Sciences) BCom (Economic Sciences) BCom (Industrial Psychology) BCom (Financial Accounting) BCom (Management Accounting)	NSC Average 65% Mathematics 60% Minimum EMS Language Admission Requirements* <i>BCom (Economic Sciences) require 70% Mathematics for both Econometrics and Financial Sector focal areas)</i>	NSC Average 70% Mathematics 63%
BCom (Mathematical Sciences)	NSC Average 70% Mathematics 75% Minimum EMS Language Admission Requirements*	NSC Average 75% Mathematics 80%
BAcc	NSC Average 70%	NSC Average 75%

	Mathematics 70% OR (Mathematics 60% and Accounting 70%) Minimum EMS language admission requirements*	Mathematics 75% (or if Mathematics is 70% - 74% then Accounting must be 75%)
BDatSci	NSC Average 80% Mathematics 80% English or Afrikaans Home Language 60% or English or Afrikaans Additional Language 75%	No additional selection criteria.
BCom (International Business)	NSC Average 80% Mathematics 70% English Home Language 70% or English First Additional Language 80%	NSC Average 85% Mathematics 75%
BCom (Actuarial Science)	NSC Average 80% Mathematics 80% Home Language 60% (If English is not the home language then English First Additional Language 75%)	NSC Average 85% Mathematics 85%
BCom (Management Sciences) ECP	NSC Average 60% Mathematics 50% Minimum EMS Language Admission Requirements*	Socio-Economic Status (SES) ¹ of 2 or more.

¹ Socio-Economic Status (SES) is a reflection of the current socio-economic disadvantages an applicant has had to overcome. The SES-factor is determined through the information provided during the application process and considers three indicators: educational disadvantage, economic disadvantage and first-generation student status.

BCom (Law), BAcc LLB

The selection of for these programmes is done by the Faculty of Law and is therefore not covered in this document. For more information, please consult the Faculty of Law's website at <https://blogs.sun.ac.za/law>.

***Minimum EMS language admission requirements:**

- English Home Language 50% *or*
- Afrikaans Home Language 50% *or*
- English First Additional Language 70% *or*
- Afrikaans First Additional Language 70%.