

Grade 9: Frequently asked questions

Disclaimer: This document contains the most current information (April 2023) from www.maties.com and will be updated frequently. However, it remains the responsibility of prospective students, parents and/or teachers to keep abreast of the latest developments.

- **What is the difference between a university, a university of technology, and a TVET college?**

In South Africa, there are three types of institutions where you can study once you matriculate: universities, universities of technology, and TVET colleges. Community colleges are a recent addition for those who haven't finished school. Understanding the difference between these institutions is important.

What is a university?

Universities offer degree programmes that generally take three to four years to complete. Admission requirements vary and can be quite specific. Basic requirements include a National Senior Certificate (matric) with very good marks, as well as particular subject combinations. In addition, you may need to meet a list of specific requirements. University programmes focus on theoretical training in a specialised field. The longer you study, the more specialised the field becomes. Once you have completed your undergraduate degree, you can continue studying and obtain a postgraduate degree (honours, master's and doctorate).

What is a university of technology?

Universities of technology offer mainly diploma and certificate programmes, but also some degree programmes that take about three years to complete. Admission requirements depend on the course you wish to enrol for. In addition to the basic features of a university, a university of technology places special emphasis on innovative problem solving and career-directed programmes. Programmes are designed to be practical and include experiential learning.

What is a TVET college?

TVET is an abbreviation for "technical and vocational education and training". Training at TVET colleges varies from a few months to three years, and students generally receive a certificate at the end of a three-year course. The focus is on educating and training students to work in technical or vocational fields. "Vocational" refers to jobs that typically involve manual or practical activities and are traditionally non-academic." Students who have completed their studies may be able to continue their studies at a university of technology. The focus of TVET colleges is to provide students with not only academic knowledge, but also the practical experience to enter the workforce as quickly and as well-equipped as possible.



- **How do I make good subject choices, and why is this so important?**

Making good subject choices is the first important step in choosing the career that is right for you. Unfortunately, this important decision needs to be made at a stage of your life when you probably have not given your future career much thought.

Often, learners make their subject choices based on factors that will have little to no importance in five years' time, for instance:

- 'If I choose Maths, I will have little time for sport.'
- 'My school does not offer the specific subject(s) I need to pursue my desired career.'
- 'I will take X subject because I like the teacher.' OR 'I will not/no longer take X subject because I dislike the teacher.'

Discussing subjects with your friends can also make you subjective and make it harder to choose the subjects that are right for you.

Rather discuss this with your parents, a teacher or an older sibling to help you make an informed choice based on your research. Ultimately, your decision should be based on your ability to do the subject and to see it through.

- **I get anxious thinking that the subjects I choose today will have an impact on my future. Where do I start?**

We understand that choosing your subjects can be daunting. That's why we recommend that you visit the websites below to do some research and get useful tips to make things easier.

Perhaps you have a couple of careers in mind, but you're not quite sure which programme you will need to enrol for after school to realise your dream. Do consult the PACE Careers and GoStudy websites to look at various careers, what they entail, how long you will need to study, where you can study, and which subjects are required.

PACE Careers: <https://www.pacecareers.com/resources>

GoStudy: <https://www.gostudy.net/occupations>

Educational resource companies also have useful material that you can download. Try

FundiConnect: <https://fundiconnect.co.za/>

Download our latest publications:

- Grade 9 subject and grade 11 career guidance booklet:

ENG: https://console.vpaper.ca/stellenbosch-university/grade9-11_eng/

XHO: https://console.vpaper.ca/stellenbosch-university/grade-9-11_xha/

- Minimum requirements booklet:

Eng: https://console.vpaper.ca/stellenbosch-university/admission-booklet_2024/

Xho: https://console.vpaper.ca/stellenbosch-university/admission-booklet_2024_xho/

- **Some questions that often arise during our grade 9 interactions**

Please keep in mind that the answers below are based on Stellenbosch University's



Stellenbosch

UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

forward together
sonke siya phambili
saam vorentoe

current minimum admission requirements and, therefore, are subject to change. Check requirements every year, and also note that these may vary across institutions.



How important is overall average achieved when choosing subjects?

Both your overall average and your individual subject marks are important when considering applying to a university. So, don't choose subjects just for the sake of choosing, as this can eventually have a negative impact on your overall average.

(Currently, some bursaries and Residence Placement specifically look at your overall average – the higher, the better.)

Does a subject such as Computer Application Technology count towards university admission?

Yes, it does. You need to make sure that your subject combination allows you to pass grade 12 with a bachelor's pass (or equivalent if you are following an international curriculum).

Do I need Accounting to become a chartered accountant (CA)?

No. For the BAcc programme, we look at (i) your overall academic average, (ii) your Language marks, and (iii) your Mathematics mark. If you have Accounting up to grade 12, it will make the first semester of Financial Accounting at university easier, but you will not be at a disadvantage without it.

Do I need to take History to study law?

No, you do not need to take History at school to be eligible to study law. No matter which one of the four Law programmes you are considering, you need to be strong in languages. For the BCom Law and BAcc Law options offered by the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences you will also need Mathematics.

Do I need Information Technology to study one of the Computer Sciences programmes?

No, it is not a prerequisite. We look at (i) your overall academic average, (ii) your Language marks, and (iii) your Mathematics mark. For BSc Mathematical Sciences or Computer Sciences, we also look at your Science mark.

However, if you can take Information Technology and have an interest in the field, it will only be to your advantage and give you a good grounding.

Which students perform better in law studies: those who took Mathematical Literacy or those who took pure Mathematics?

Normally, students who had pure Mathematics at school perform better than those who had Mathematical Literacy.



Can I do a BCom with Mathematical Literacy?

No. All the degree programmes on offer in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (Business) require various levels of Mathematics, and you will not be considered if you took Mathematical Literacy.

To look at the programmes offered by Economic and Management Sciences, visit www.maties.com > What can I study > Undergraduate > Economic and Management Sciences.

Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy?

We always advise learners to try to take Mathematics if they can.

Unfortunately, different institutions have different requirements, so you will have to do proper research to ensure that you choose the subject combination that will allow you access.

To make an informed decision about whether to take Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy, you will need to explore your interests and potential study areas. Certain subjects are more useful than others and will open doors to several options. We often see learners who have an area of study in mind, but cannot apply for it because they do not have the correct subjects.

How about the combination of Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Life Sciences? Wouldn't that give me access to study virtually anything?

It is true that some or all of these subjects are required for many programmes in the faculties of Engineering, Science, AgriSciences, Economic and Management Sciences, and Medicine and Health Sciences.

However, if you are weak in these subjects or hate them, chances are you will not enjoy the higher education options or careers that they lead to. Be sensible and aim to find a balance between so-called 'gateway subjects' and your interests. The risk is that you might overload yourself with gateway subjects and then perform poorly, which will jeopardise your chances of doing well in your exams. In fact, you could end up with such a low average that your chances of studying at a tertiary institution become limited.

What if at the end of grade 9, I am still unsure whether I should take Mathematics and/or Physical Sciences?

The best option would be to take the subject in grade 10 and revise your decision at the end of the year based on your results. However, be sure to make the necessary changes by the start of grade 11, as you will need to use your final grade 11 results to apply to university.



What does 'minimum admission requirements' mean? Will I get accepted into a programme if I meet the minimum requirements only just?

Minimum academic requirements should be used as a realistic guideline in your subject choices. This will prevent you from ending up in a situation in grade 12 where you either had the wrong subject combination or only meet the bare minimum required to be considered for a university programme. Keep in mind, though, that minimum requirements serve as a guide only; they are not the goal. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

- **Which programmes are unique to Stellenbosch University?**

- AgriSciences Faculty offers 3 unique programme areas:
 - Viticulture and Oenology
 - Forestry and Wood Sciences
 - Only Horticultural Sciences Department at a University in SA focusing on Deciduous, Citrus and Subtropical fruit as well as Cape Flora and Berries.
- Economic and Management Sciences Faculty offer these unique programme areas:
 - Diploma in Sustainable Development
 - BAccLLB
 - BCom International Business, a combination of the BCom Management Sciences and the BA International Studies programmes. This four-year programme includes a six-month exchange.
- The country's first specialised School for Data Science and Computational Thinking, offering an interdisciplinary programme that comprises eight focus areas across four faculties. Its first intake was in 2021.
 - Analytics and Optimisation (Economic and Management Sciences)
 - Behavioural Economics (Economic and Management Sciences)
 - Statistical Learning (Economic and Management Sciences)
 - Applied Mathematics (Science)
 - Computer Science (Science)
 - Statistical Physics (Science)
 - Statistical Genetics (AgriSciences)
 - Geoinformatics (Arts and Social Sciences)
- All Engineering programmes, except the new Data Engineering stream, follow the same first year, which is unique and allows students some leeway to change their focal area, after successfully completing all the first-year modules.
- BSc in Polymer Sciences



- Leading the field in the move towards a carbon-neutral university, Stellenbosch University has launched a new School for Climate Studies in 2021. This is the first school of its kind in South Africa that has the status of a faculty.

- **Which programmes does Stellenbosch University not offer?**

- Architecture and programmes in the Built Environment
- Dentistry
- Veterinary Sciences
- Marine Biology
- Hospitality Studies

However, if you have a specific career in mind, please ask. One of our programmes may very well serve as a route to that career, even though the programme name doesn't sound like it.

- **I have more questions ...**

Why not book a grade 9 subject choice assessment? This service is offered both online and in person. In-person testing takes place at our office in Stellenbosch.

Costs:

Mondays to Fridays: R 2 650 per client | Saturdays: R3 050 per client

The fee is payable within 48 hours after booking. Costs apply to in-office as well as online assessments.

*Keep an eye on the www.maties.com website and our Facebook page for special offers!

For bookings, please contact:

Email: csr@sun.ac.za

Telephone: 021 808 4709

<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/maties/Pages/Career-CareerAdvice.aspx>

Please note:

- We are open during school holidays.
- Assessments are done by appointment only.
- Other services (such as career counselling at schools, or special projects and/or workshops) are also available. Costs will depend on the nature of the project.
- We only assess persons aged 15 to 21.
- Grade 10 learners are only assessed if they are considering changing their subjects.