



Stellenbosch

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# Subject choice guidance and career advice

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saam vorentoe

# Subject choice guidance and career advice

Learners are faced with various subject and career options. While having options is certainly a privilege, making the right choice can also be a challenge. At Stellenbosch University, we want to ensure that learners are supported as far as possible to make realistic subject and career choices.

The first step in the career guidance process is subject choices in Grade 9. At this young age, learners do not always realise the potential impact of their subject choices on their future career options. The second step in the career guidance process takes place in Grade 11, when learners' subject choices are matched to higher education study programmes and potential careers.

## Where do I start?

The National Senior Certificate requires seven subjects.

**Four compulsory subjects:** Two South African languages, Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy, and Life Orientation.

**Three electives:** These three subjects must be selected from your school's approved subject list and should be useful after school.

This booklet will help you choose school subjects that suit your interests. Also keep in mind the minimum requirements of potential future careers when making your final subject choice. Subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Life Sciences are required for certain fields of study.

## I have already chosen my subjects

The next step is to identify your chosen field of study and career, and to reconcile this with your interests. This booklet will help you identify fields of study and careers that suit you. Make sure that your school subjects meet the requirements of these fields of study. Also remember that certain professions require postgraduate study.

If you are unsure about which programme to apply for, consider booking a free advisory session at our Centre for Student Recruitment and Career Advice. Our university also offers a psychometric assessment service, which assesses your personality, aptitude and interests to help you make an informed decision about your subjects and future career.

To book, contact [csr@sun.ac.za](mailto:csr@sun.ac.za) or **021 808 4709**.

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## Humanities and social sciences

Interests	School subjects	Fields of study at university	Career opportunities
Working with people (individuals or groups), people's emotional and/or mental needs, human rights, teaching and learning of children and/or adults, languages, reading and/or writing	<p>No specific school subjects are required</p> <p><b>Recommended subjects:</b> History, Geography, Religion Studies, Additional Languages (depending on your field of interest)</p> <p><b>Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy?</b> Mathematical Literacy provides access to all fields of study, with the exception of Political Science and Data Science. Mathematics is required if you plan on taking Mathematics, Statistics or Economics as a subject at university.</p>	Psychology, Language and Culture, Sport Science, Law, Political Science, Social Work, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies, International Studies, Human Resource Management, Theology, Socio-Informatics	Psychologist, language practitioner, journalist, sport scientist, social worker, politician, civil servant, diplomat, researcher, teacher, human resource manager, pastoral counsellor, pastor, youth worker, entrepreneur, internet developer, electronic business specialist

## Arts and culture

Interests	School subjects	Fields of study at university	Career opportunities
Art and art appreciation, drawing, sketching, designing, sculpting, graphic design, drama, art competitions, cultural activities, classical music	<p><b>Recommended subjects:</b> Visual Art, Design, Dramatic Arts, Dance Studies, Music (depending on your field of interest)</p> <p><b>Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy?</b> Mathematical Literacy provides access to all fields of study. Note, however, that if you plan on taking Mathematics as a subject at university, which is possible in the music field, you must have Mathematics at matric level.</p>	Drama and Theatre Studies, Music, Music Technology, Visual Arts (Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Jewellery and Metal Design)	Actor, stage manager, artist, graphic designer, theatre scientist, teacher, musician, musicologist



## Economic and management sciences

Interests	School subjects	Fields of study at university	Career opportunities
<p>Numbers, mathematics, accounting, business management, entrepreneurship, managing people's emotional needs in a business, human rights, economics, financial planning, data, marketing</p>	<p><b>Compulsory subject:</b> Mathematics</p> <p><b>Recommended subjects:</b> Business Studies, Accounting, Economics, Information Technology (depending on your field of interest)</p>	<p>Entrepreneurship, Accounting, Economic Sciences (Economics, Econometrics, Financial Sector, Economic and Management Consulting, Transport Economics), International Business, Actuarial Sciences, Industrial Psychology, Law (Business), Investment Management, Mathematical Sciences (Data Sciences, Financial Risk Management, Operational Research), Management Sciences (Marketing Management, Business Analytics, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Financial Management, Information Systems Management, Agricultural Management, Logistics Management Human Resource Management), Computer Sciences, Financial Planning, Agricultural Economics, Public and Development Management, Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Chartered accountant, chartered management accountant, chartered certified accountant, actuary, economist, entrepreneur, financial manager, marketing manager, logistics manager, human rights manager, computer or data scientist, chartered financial analyst, certified financial planner, financial risk manager, industrial psychologist, teacher, agricultural economist, development manager, management consultant</p>



## Agrisciences

Interests	School subjects	Fields of study at university	Career opportunities
Plants, animals, the environment, life sciences, physical sciences, working in nature, farming, nature conservation, agriculture, agribusiness	<p><b>Compulsory subjects:</b> Mathematics, Physical Sciences</p> <p><b>Recommended subjects:</b> Agricultural Management Practices, Agricultural Sciences, Agricultural Technology, Life Sciences</p>	Agricultural Economics, Animal Production Systems, Conservation Ecology, Food Sciences, Forest and Wood Sciences, Viticulture and Oenology, Plant and Soil Sciences, Agricultural Production	Forest manager, food scientist, conservation ecologist, wood scientist, water management specialist, animal scientist, agricultural economist, winemaker, cellar manager, agronomist, consultant, teacher, careers in animal and crop production, farming, agritourism



## Medicine and health sciences

Interests	School subjects	Fields of study at university	Career opportunities
Working with the physical needs of children and/or adults, medical, the human body, nursing, research, nutrition, sport	<p><b>Compulsory subjects:</b> Mathematics, Physical Sciences and/or Life Sciences (depending on the requirements of your chosen programme)</p> <p><b>Subject combination:</b> Mathematical Literacy, in combination with Life Sciences, provides access to Nursing and Speech-language and hearing therapy.</p>	Medicine, Dietetics, Nursing and Obstetrics, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech-Language and Hearing Therapy	Medical doctor, surgeon, nurse, matron, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech-language and hearing therapist, medical researcher, specialist (with postgraduate study)



## Engineering

Interests	School subjects	Fields of study at university	Career opportunities
Practical work, design, data, Fourth Industrial Revolution, construction, computers, technology, science, chemistry and physics, numbers	<p><b>Compulsory subjects:</b> Mathematics, Physical Sciences</p> <p><b>Recommended subjects:</b> Civil Technology, Electrical Technology, Mechanical Technology, Engineering Graphics and Design, Information Technology, Computer Application Technology (depending on your field of interest)</p>	Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Data Sciences and Computer Thinking	Civil engineer, electrical engineer, electronic engineer, industrial engineer, mechanical engineer, mechatronic engineer, chemical engineer, data scientist, biomedical engineer, aeronautical engineer



## Sciences and technology

Interests	School subjects	Fields of study at university	Career opportunities
Chemistry, physics, geology, sport, research, the environment, biology, life sciences, mathematics, numbers, data, computers	<p><b>Compulsory subjects:</b> Mathematics, Physical Sciences</p> <p><b>Recommended subjects:</b> Life Sciences, Information Technology, Computer Application Technology (depending on your field of interest)</p>	Biodiversity and Ecology, Human Life Sciences, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Computer Sciences, Sport Sciences, Mathematical Sciences (Abstract Mathematics, Biomathematics, Financial Mathematics, Operational Research, Geographical Information Technology, Applied Mathematics, Mathematics, Mathematical Statistics), Chemistry, Physics, Earth Sciences, Geoinformatics, Data Sciences, Biomedical Mathematical Sciences, Applied Medicinal Chemistry, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology	Medical doctor, surgeon, nurse, matron, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech-language and hearing therapist, medical researcher, specialist (with postgraduate study)



## Law

Interests	School subjects	Fields of study at university	Career opportunities
Protecting human rights, arguing in court, reading and writing important documents, legal advice to individuals or businesses, transfer of property, drawing up contracts	<p><b>No specific school subjects are required for BA (Law) or LLB</b> (except if you plan on taking Statistics as a subject, in which case Mathematics is required).</p> <p>Mathematics is required if you want to study <b>BCom (Law) or BAccLLB</b>.</p>	Law	Lawyer, advocate, legal adviser, magistrate, judge, conveyancer, notary



## Education

Interests	School subjects	Fields of study at university	Career opportunities
Working with children, teaching and learning, working with learners in Grades R to 7	<p><b>Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy?</b></p> <p>Both Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy provide access to all fields of study. However, note that certain teaching modules may require certain subjects.</p> <p><b>Recommended subjects for teaching modules (Intermediary Phase Education):</b></p> <p>Natural Sciences (Ed): - Life Sciences or Physical Sciences Social Sciences (Ed): - History or Geography</p>	Foundation Phase Education, Intermediate Phase Education	Teacher