

# **Stellenbosch University (SU), Faculty of Theology Guidelines for Admissions Management - 2026**

## **1. Objective**

These guidelines and procedure for admissions management aims to direct and stimulate the admissions process of the faculty and is implemented in accordance with the aims and directives of the SU admissions policy.

## **2. Developing academic excellence and diversity**

The Faculty of Theology is committed to developing an ethos of diversity (that is, a life together that nurtures and constructively deals with different forms of diversity, including diversity of ethnicity, gender, church denomination and language) and an epistemology of diversity (in other words, knowledge that informs and transforms societies of diversity and complexity must be pursued by a diversity of persons).

The Faculty of Theology wants to deploy a growth strategy that not only considers student numbers, but also the academic potential and quality of students.

The Faculty of Theology ensures that teaching and learning takes place in both Afrikaans and English. In addition to the offer of and exposure to Afrikaans and English, the acquisition of proficiency in an additional African language is encouraged and facilitated through the curricula.

Consideration is given to the growth in the number of academically excellent students, the growth in the diversity profile of the student population, and the achievement of optimal numbers of students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Through the extended curriculum programme (ECP) the faculty further aims to enhance both academic access and success and hence also contribute to the redress of past and present inequalities with regards to academic access and success.

To continue to grow sustainably and meet enrolment targets, the following measures are taken:

- marketing of the faculty as part of the broader SU marketing drive;
- marketing of the faculty at and together with the church partners of the faculty;
- marketing of the faculty at church denominations that have not yet concluded official partnerships with the faculty;
- emphasis on personal recruitment and networking, which clearly appears to be a highly effective way of recruiting theology students;
- the development of alumni relations, which is a powerful tool in the marketing of the faculty in general, but especially in terms of enrollment control;
- marketing of the new curriculum of the faculty;
- the offer of academically excellent programmes, which in itself is the most important marketer of the faculty;
- maintaining of and communication of the faculty's status as top theology faculty in Africa;
- the provision of a positive institutional experience for students, who as alumni of the faculty become good marketers of the faculty;
- the establishment and deepening of the policy of access with success, among other things through (a) bridging courses and recognition of previous learning, and (b) stronger utilization of

the extended degree program and (c) the upgrading of the academic support programs of the faculty;

- maintaining and improving the quality of research through the faculty;
- adequate staffing is ensured.

### **3. Admission Requirements – Undergraduate Degree Programmes**

#### **a. Minimum admission requirements for degree programmes in the Faculty of Theology**

For admission to the degree programmes in the faculty, an applicant must meet the following minimum admission requirements:

- **National Senior Certificate (NSC) with:**
  - An average final mark of at least 60%, excluding Life Orientation
  - A weighted average for the National Senior Certificate (approved subjects) of 60% or higher, if you apply for Theology during the registration period.

#### **b. Admission requirements for the extended curriculum programmes (ECP)**

- If an applicant has a weighted National Senior Certificate average (approved subjects) of **at least 55%, but below 60%**, such applicant could possibly be admitted to an extended curriculum programme, but this also depends on an interview with the Dean or his or her representative.
- If an applicant has a weighted National Senior Certificate average (approved subjects) of **below 55%**, such applicant may apply for and possibly gain admission to an extended curriculum programme based on the Regulation for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT).
- If an applicant has a weighted National Senior Certificate average (approved subjects) of **below 55%, but higher than 50%**, and if such applicant is socio-economically disadvantaged, her/his church denomination may approach the Dean for a Dean's discretionary admission. The Dean will consider this request in consultation with the Programme Committee chair.

#### **c. Admission requirements for the BTh (Focus area Part-Time)**

BTh programme, focus area Part-time (NQF level 7) Programme Description The BTh programme with focus area Part-time is a programme in which the content of the three-year BTh programme with focus area General is presented over four years. In addition to meeting the requirements for university admission, applicants must also meet a number of specific criteria to be eligible for the BTh programme with focus area Part-time. Applicants:

- are at least 30 years old or older;
- are a second-career student (a student that is or has been employed in another career) or in ministry;
- have completed the Faculty's introductory theology and computer literacy short courses on NQF level 5;
- provide proof of ministerial experience or a letter of motivation from a denominational head.

The number of students admitted to this programme per year is limited, and a selection panel will evaluate prospective students.

Admission requirements for students who obtained the National Senior Certificate (NSC) in 2008 or later:

- An average final mark of at least 60%, excluding Life Orientation;
- Exemption for a bachelor's degree.

Admission requirements for students who matriculated in 2007 or earlier:

- A matric certificate with a minimum of four symbols between A and E (at least 40%);
- At least one subject must be on higher-grade level;
- Must have passed at least three subjects during the same examination sitting.
- Must apply to the Matriculation Board for matriculation exemption.
- If older than 45 years, the applicant must provide evidence of matriculation exemption from the Matriculation Board.

#### **4. Selection process**

The following undergraduate programmes in Theology are subject to a selection process.

- BTh (focus areas General and Youth Work),
- BTh extended curriculum programme (focus areas General and Youth Work),
- BDiv, and
- BDiv extended curriculum programme.

A maximum total of a hundred students will be admitted to the BTh (focus areas General and Youth Work) and BDiv programmes together per year.

A maximum total of twenty-five students will be admitted to the BTh extended curriculum programme (focus areas General and Youth Work) and the BDiv extended programme together per year.

The selection criteria are based on:

- the final mark received for the National Senior Certificate, and
  - a motivational letter, no longer than 250 words, submitted by the applicant on why the applicant wants to study theology.
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- BTh (Focus area Part-Time)

The number of students admitted to this programme per year is limited, and a selection panel will evaluate prospective students.

#### **5. Oversight and Implementation**

The office of the Dean and the Programme Committee is responsible for the oversight and implementation of this guideline.

Prof. R W Nel  
Dean: Faculty of Theology  
25 March 2025