

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 or the National Health Laboratory Services. Exceptions to this rule will be considered in the following instances:
 - where you register as a special student with the University (refer also to the section on Admission as Special Student in Part 1 (General) of the Calendar) 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 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 Department of Health, 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 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 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 health care 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.

5.3.1.25 MMed Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery MMed (Plast and Recons)

Specific admission requirements

This programme does not have specific admission requirements. The general admission requirements for MMed programmes as mentioned in section 5.3.1 above are applicable.

Duration of programme

The programme extends over five years.

Programme content

Anatomy	876(33)
Anatomical Pathology	875(34)
Physiology	875(33)
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (Intermediate)	871(100)
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	871(160)
Research Assignment	826(120)

Assessment and examination

- The Part I written examination is conducted within 18 months, and must be passed with a minimum of 50%.
- The intermediate examination is completed in writing and orally, and must be passed with a minimum of 50% within three and a half years.
- The MMed Part II examination consists of a written, practical and oral examination, which must be passed with a subminimum of 50%.
- The research project counts 25% of the total credits and must cover a relevant topic in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in a discipline of your choice. You must display your ability to conduct independent research by means of the assignment. The report must be completed in a standard format to the satisfaction of an internal and an unattached external examiner.
- The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) requires that you successfully complete the single national exit examination to register as a specialist.
- The Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery acknowledges this examination as equivalent to and substituting the MMed (Plast and Recons) Part II examination.
- It, however, remains the responsibility of the head of the Division to confirm the following:
 - successful completion of clinical training time;
 - submission of a completed case-book;
 - successful completion of the assignment according to the regulations of the University in this regard; and
 - successful completion of flexible assessment.

Enquiries

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Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2023 Medicine and Health Sciences Calendar (Yearbook). Make sure to consult the full [Medicine and Health Sciences Calendar](#) to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the Calendar under section *Postgraduate Programmes*.