

5.1.11.5 Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing

Specific admission requirements

- One of the following qualifications:
 - A bachelor's degree in Nursing (Regulation 174) and/or the Diploma in Nursing: General Nurses (Regulation 171) with the Advanced Diploma in Midwifery (Regulation 1497); or
 - A two-year diploma (bridging course) leading to registration as General or Psychiatric Nurse offered under Regulation 683 of 14 April 1989, as amended, followed by a one-year Diploma in Midwifery offered under Regulation 254 of 14 February 1975, as amended; or
 - A four-year Diploma in Nursing and Midwifery offered under Regulation 425 of 22 February 1985, as amended; or
 - A four-year bachelor's degree offered under Regulation 425 of 22 February 1985, as amended.
- Current registration with the South African Nursing Council (SANC) as a Professional Nurse and Midwife, or a General Nurse with a Midwifery qualification.
- Valid proof of successful completion of a Basic Life Support (BLS) course must be submitted upon registration for the PG Dip in Mental Health Nursing programme or within two months of commencement of the programme.

Two years' experience as a Registered/Professional Nurse and Midwife, which includes experience in the field of the speciality within the last two years is recommended.

Computer literacy is highly recommended.

Application procedure and closing date

Apply online at www.maties.com by **31 October** of the previous year.

Duration of programme

The programme extends full-time over one academic year.

Programme description

The programme aims to develop you into a critically thinking, creative and reflective practitioner who not only takes the lead in providing mental healthcare, but also serves as a resource on mental health services in South Africa.

It will equip you with an in-depth knowledge and therapeutic skills to diagnose, treat, care for and manage individuals with mental disorders at a primary, secondary and tertiary care level. A particular focus will be the skill to consult and liaise with patients. The programme will also help you understand the context and dynamics of our health services system, and how this affects health services delivery.

Presentation

Theory is presented using a blended-learning approach in block periods as per the academic calendar on the Tygerberg campus. Work-integrated learning comprises of simulation learning, clinical practice for experiential learning, and role-taking at clinical facilities in the Western Cape Province that SANC has specifically accredited for Stellenbosch University (720 hours as stipulated by SANC).

Programme content

Evidence-based Practice	721(8)
Leadership and Development in Specialist Practice	743(8)
Praxis of Specialist Practice	746(8)
Principles and Processes of Mental Health Nursing	751(48)
Specialist Mental Health Nursing Practice	753(48)

Assessment and examination

- A variety of formative and summative assessment methods are used. You will be assessed based on:
 - assignments;
 - the application of research principles and methods;
 - patient case presentations;
 - case studies;

- clinical skills;
 - portfolios of evidence; and
 - written tests and examinations.
- Each module is assessed separately, and you must achieve at least 50% in a module to pass.
- If you fail a first-semester module, you will be allowed a second assessment opportunity in June of the same year. If you fail the second opportunity, you will not be permitted to continue with your studies in the programme.
- If you fail a year module, you will be allowed a second assessment opportunity in January of the following year. If you fail the second opportunity, you will not be permitted to continue with your studies in the programme.

Enquiries

Programme leader: Ms R Felix

Tel: 021 938 9293/9036 Email: rehannafelix@sun.ac.za

Postgraduate programmes

For more specific information on the Faculty's postgraduate programmes, consult the University's webpage on Postgraduate Studies (<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/pgstudies/>) or the various departmental websites.

1. Programme offering

The following postgraduate diploma and degree programmes are presented by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences:

Postgraduate Diplomas	Abbreviation
Postgraduate Diploma in Addiction Care	PG Dip (Addiction Care)
Postgraduate Diploma in Disability and Rehabilitation Studies	PG Dip (Disability and Rehabilitation Studies)
Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine	PG Dip (Family Medicine)
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Care Management	PG Dip (Health Care Management)
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research Ethics	PG Dip (Health Research Ethics)
Postgraduate Diploma in Infectious Diseases	PG Dip (Infectious Diseases)
Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Toxicology	PG Dip (Medical Toxicology)
Postgraduate Diploma in Medicines Development	PG Dip (Medicines Development)
Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Medicine	PG Dip (Occupational Medicine)
Postgraduate Diploma in Rural Medicine	PG Dip (Rural Medicine)
Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing/Midwifery	PG Dip (Specialist Nursing/Midwifery)
Honours Degrees	Abbreviation
Bachelor of Science Honours	BScHons
Master's Degrees	Abbreviation
Master of Addiction Care	MAddiction Care
Master of Audiology	MAud
Master of Global Surgery	MGlobalSurg
Master of Human Rehabilitation Studies	MHumRehab
Master of Medicine	MMed
Master of Nursing	MNurs
Master of Occupational Therapy	MOccTher
Master of Pathology	MPath
Master of Philosophy	MPhil
Master of Physiotherapy	MPhysio
Master of Public Health Nutrition	MNutr in Public Health
Master of Science	MSc
Master of Speech-Language Therapy	MSpeech
Master of Therapeutic Nutrition	MTherNutr
Doctoral Degrees	Abbreviation
Doctor of Philosophy	PhD
Doctor of Science	DSc

2. Commencement of postgraduate studies

As postgraduate student you must register for your particular programme at the start of the academic year. The only programmes that still take on students at the start of the second semester are MMed programmes. If you are accepted for an MMed programme, you will be able to register at the start of the second semester. You can submit a request for exclusion from this rule to the Vice-Dean: Learning and Teaching, with special motivation.

3. Recognition of prior learning and credit accumulation and transfer (RPL&CAT)

Consult the RPL&CAT guidelines of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences for more information on the procedures and guidelines regarding the recognition of prior learning and credit accumulation and transfer in the Faculty. These guidelines are available at www.sun.ac.za/tygststudentadmin under "Policies and Guidelines".

4. Class fees

From 2010 class fees for all structured M degree programmes will be levied per module. Until further notice the class fees for MMed programmes will be levied per annum, as in the past, with the exception of the class fees for the MMed (Fam Med) programme which will be levied per module.

The class fees for the research modules within the structured M degree programmes will be spread over two years (70% of the class fees in the first year of registration and 30% in the second year) to prevent you from having to pay the full amount for two consecutive years. If you complete your research module within one year of study, you will therefore pay only 70% of the class fees for the specific module. But if you fail to complete the research module within the prescribed two years, you will pay, as of the third year of study, the full amount for the module.

If you register for a research master's degree, you must pay the full amount in the first year of study with a continuation levy in the second and third year. However, in the fourth and following years of study the continuation levy will double.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 Medicine and Health Sciences Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Medicine and Health Sciences Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section **1. Programme offering**.