

Performance Indicators on South African Public Universities 2009–2016

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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Academic staff

Academic staff are employees who spend at least 50% of their official time on duty on teaching and/or research activities.

CESM categories

Classification of the subject matter embedded in the fields of study and courses in standard ways according to the Classification of Educational Subject Matter Manual published by the Department of Higher Education and Training in August 2008.

Doctoral degree (PhD)

A doctoral degree is a qualification which has a masters' degree as a minimum entry requirement, and a minimum completion time of one to two years. There are two types of doctoral degrees according to the Council on Higher Education's (2013) 'Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework':

1. A doctorate degree in which each student has to demonstrate the ability to produce new knowledge. The defining characteristic is that the candidate must demonstrate high level research capability and make a significant and original academic contribution at the frontiers of a discipline or field.
2. The professional doctorate which is designed around the development of high level performance and innovation in a professional context.

Field of study

The major or principal subject the student is following in his/her qualification.

FTE (Full-time Equivalent) enrolments

An FTE student enrolment total takes into account the course load carried by a student. This can be illustrated in the following examples:

1. If year one of a Bachelor of Arts programme requires registration for four courses, a student enrolling for the full curriculum would be counted as a single FTE unit.
2. A part-time student who is registered for one third of a standard curriculum would be counted as 0.33 of an FTE enrolment.
3. A student registering for only 50% of the required courses for a year of a particular qualification would be regarded as 0.5 of an FTE enrolment.

FTE (Full-time Equivalent) staff

Employees who work full-time at the institution for an entire year are taken as single full-time equivalent staff units. A staff member who works for only a part of the year is taken as a proportion of a single unit. Hence, for example, a person who is only employed for six months of a year would be counted as 0.5 of a full-time equivalent staff unit.

Head count enrolment

A head count enrolment total is literally a counting of heads, which implies that both full- and part-time students are considered as single units, irrespective of the course load each is taking.

Major fields of study

The major fields of study are categorised as follows:

- **Natural sciences**, including agriculture and agriculture operations, computer and information sciences, family ecology and consumer sciences, life sciences and physical sciences, mathematics and statistics.
- **Engineering and technology**, made up of engineering and architecture and the built environment.
- **Health sciences**, being health professions and related clinical sciences.
- **Business, economics and management**, including accounting, auditing, economics, finance, business administration, and various management programmes.
- **Education**, made up of studies in pre-primary, primary, secondary and post-school education, and the training of teachers at all levels.
- **Humanities and social sciences**, being fine arts, music and drama, communication and journalism studies, languages and literature, law, public management and services, psychology, sociology and anthropology, history, political sciences, military sciences, philosophy and religious studies.

Masters degree

A masters degree is a university qualification which has a Bachelor Honours Degree or a Postgraduate Diploma as a minimum entry requirement, and a minimum completion time of one year. Masters degrees typically fall into one of the following two categories according to the Council on Higher Educations (2013) 'Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework':

1. A general masters degree which educate and train researchers who can contribute to the development of knowledge at an advanced level. There are two variants, namely: a research masters degree by dissertation, or a research masters degree by coursework and dissertation.
2. A professional masters degree which allow for deeper training in a profession and the ability to contribute to the development of knowledge at an advanced level.

Postgraduates

Persons who are registered for a qualification which has an undergraduate qualification as an entrance requirement and with NQF exit levels 8, 9 and 10 (excluding 1st Bachelor Degrees with NQF exit level 8).

Qualification types

- *Undergraduate* includes undergraduate certificates and diplomas, 1st bachelor degrees, B Tech degrees, and advanced diplomas.
- *PG to masters* includes postgraduate certificates, postgraduate diplomas, postgraduate bachelor degrees, advanced bachelor degrees, and honours degrees.
- *Masters* includes masters degrees.
- *Doctors* includes doctoral degrees.

Success rates

This ratio indicates what proportion of the courses for which students were enrolled were passed (completed) in a specific year. Success rates are calculated by dividing the completed credits by the enrolled credits expressed as a percentage.

Undergraduates

Persons who are registered for a qualification with NQF exit levels 5, 6 and 7 as well as 1st Bachelor degrees with NQF exit level 8.

Weighted research outputs

The research outputs recognised by the South African funding framework are research publication units (weighting = 1), research masters graduates (weighting = 1), and doctoral graduates (weighting = 3).

Weighted teaching outputs

Weighted teaching outputs are the funded units that determine the teaching output grant allocations by applying the funding weights for the various types of teaching output programmes to the graduates. Contact and distance graduates are allocated the same funding weights. The weightings for funding purposes are set out in the table below:

Teaching output programmes	Weightings
UG certificates and diplomas (1 year)	0.5
UG certificates and diplomas (2 years)	0.5
UG certificates and diplomas (3 years)	1.0
UG 1 st bachelors degrees (3 years)	1.0
UG 1 st bachelors degrees (4 years or more) NQF 7	1.5
UG 1 ST bachelor's degrees (4 years or more) NQF 8	1.5
UG B Tech (1 year)	1.5
UG advanced diplomas (1 year) NQF 7	0.5
PG certificate in education (1 year) NQF 7	0.5
PG diplomas and post-diplomas dipl/cert (1 year)	0.5
PG bachelors degrees and advanced bachelors degrees	1.0
Honours degrees/higher diplomas/post-grad dipl (1 year)	0.5
Non-research masters degrees and diplomas	0.5

Source: Department of Higher Education and Training (2018). *Ministerial Statement on University Funding: 2018/19 and 2019/20, February 2018*. Pretoria: DHET