

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Maximum Duration

The maximum duration for all doctoral degrees of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences is five years. The supervisor of a candidate may submit an acceptable motivation for the extension of the period to the Committee for Postgraduate Education of the Faculty, at least six months prior to the expiry of the five years.

Doctor of Philosophy

Programme description

A student can obtain a Doctorate in Philosophy (PhD) in the following disciplines of the medical sciences:

- Community Health
- Epidemiology

Specific admission requirements

A student can be admitted to the degree PhD in Medical Sciences provided that:

- a minimum period of two years has passed since obtaining the degree MB,ChB or BChD;
- or
- he has obtained a relevant honours degree in Medical Sciences directly following an MB,ChB/BChD degree;
- or
- he has obtained a master's degree in Physiotherapy;
- or
- he has obtained a master's degree in Nutrition/Dietetics;
- or
- he has obtained a relevant MSc degree (Master of Natural Science) of the University, or another university approved by Senate;
- or
- he has obtained another qualification (and has allowed for the required period following the qualification) that is deemed sufficient by Senate;
- and
- he complies with all the other provisions for doctorates (as stipulated under Higher Degrees in Part 1 of the Calendar, as well as in the Briefing Document on D degrees).

A student can be admitted to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Health Professions Education (PhD in HPE) provided that:

- the applicant has obtained a relevant qualification in the Health Sciences and/or has relevant experience in the Health Sciences;
- and
- an M degree in Health Professions Education or Higher Education has been conferred to him;
- or
- he has proven and relevant experience with educational research and/or relevant research in the social sciences;
- or
- the applicant has obtained another qualification deemed sufficient by Senate (including the time passed since obtaining the qualification);
- and
- he has proven and relevant experience with educational research and/or relevant research in the social sciences.

PLEASE NOTE:

Admission requirements are subject to amendment based on new requirements of the Department of Higher Education and Training.

Other requirements

Upon application for registration (enrolment as student), the prospective student needs to use a specific form that can be obtained from the Administration to provide Senate with details of qualifications (accompanied by certified copies of certificates if the qualifications have not been obtained at Stellenbosch University), the place and subject of the dissertation for approval. Upon approval, a supervisor will be appointed.

Programme structure

The PhD degree will be awarded to a student:

- after he has been registered for the PhD degree at the University for at least two academic years;
- on the condition that, with the supervisor's consent, the student will at least six months prior to the desired date of graduation give written notice to the Registrar of his intention to submit a dissertation;
- based on a dissertation – under supervision by a supervisor – that covers a problem from an area in the Medical Sciences or Health Professions Education in the case of a PhD in HPE. (The dissertation must provide proof to the satisfaction of the University of advanced, original work, which contributes to the enhancement of fundamental, theoretical and/or clinical knowledge in the particular field of research.);
- provided that the dissertation is accompanied by a statement confirming that it has not previously been submitted to another university or institution in order to obtain a degree or diploma, and that it is the student's own work; and
- after he has passed an oral examination. An oral examination for the doctorate is a general requirement (apart from the advanced doctorates), but subject to the approval of Senate, exemption from this examination may be granted in specific cases based on sufficient motivation.

Assessment and examination

- The PhD degree is awarded in recognition of high quality, original research and is conventionally assessed based on a dissertation.
- In addition a PhD degree may be obtained in an alternative way, namely primarily based on published scientific articles. However, it is not possible to obtain a PhD degree exclusively on the basis of published articles. More details on this can be found in the briefing document on D studies at the Faculty, and can be obtained from the faculty secretary.
- With regard to the date of submission of the dissertation, the number of copies to be submitted, as well as the further requirements with which students have to comply in order to graduate, the general provisions for doctorates will apply as stipulated under Higher Degrees in Part 1 of the Calendar, as well as in the Briefing Document on D degrees of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.
- The PhD degree is not regarded as basis for registration as a specialist with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, but can indeed be registered as an additional qualification

Enquiries

Programme coordinator: Prof L Dudley

Tel.: (021) 938 9375 E-mail: ldudley@sun.ac.za