



Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine 2024



Apply online <https://student.sun.ac.za/applicant-portal/#/auth/login> by September 30th!

1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine at Stellenbosch University. The purpose of this brochure is to give you enough information to decide if you want to enroll as a student in the Postgraduate Diploma programme.

2. BROAD AIM

The Postgraduate Diploma programme aims to provide a course of study for doctors wishing to expand their knowledge and skills in areas relevant to Family Medicine or general practice. The programme aims to enhance the quality of family / general practice and satisfy the desire of doctors for continuing professional development.

3. OBJECTIVES

- Manage patients with undifferentiated problems in primary care.
- Respond effectively to the quadruple burden of disease.
- Provide ethical, legal, professional, and scientifically sound healthcare.
- Perform clinical (incl. communication, procedural) skills appropriate to level.
- Provide comprehensive, coordinated and continuing care (preventative, promotive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative).
- Manage resources within the context of the multi-disciplinary team and the referral system towards optimal clinical care.
- Use evidence and guidelines to reflect on practice.
- Align professional values and behaviour as a role model for change.
- Conduct relevant aspects of corporate governance.



- Facilitate and support inter-professional learning activities.
- Guide a primary health care provider / colleague to identify and address own professional learning needs.
- Reflect on own professional learning needs, and design and implement an appropriate learning plan according to the best available evidence.
- Evaluate and assess the system and individual clinical processes within the team.
- Support patients and communities in engaging with their health rights and responsibilities.
- Coordinate the holistic care of patients with healthcare providers and facilities in own community/geographic service area.
- Assess and respond to the social determinants of health within a particular community through a community oriented primary care approach.

The Postgraduate Diploma can be registered as an additional qualification with the HPCSA but is NOT acceptable for registration as a Family Physician with the HPCSA.

4. **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

For admission to the Postgraduate Diploma of Family Medicine programme, a student must have an MBChB degree or another equivalent qualification considered by the University to be of an adequate standard. The qualification must be registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa or with an equivalent registration body outside South Africa.

In addition, they must have completed their internship and community service and be in good standing with both their registration body and their employer. A candidate should apply in writing for such admission.

Applicants must be competent in the use of English at an academic level.

International candidates who have obtained their qualifications from tertiary institutions where English is not the language of instruction must provide proof of English Language proficiency. This evidence must accompany your application and must not be older than 24 months from the date of application to the University.

During the programme, each student is required to work in a clinical setting that is appropriate for the practice and learning of family medicine. Suitable settings may include a general practice, community health centre, clinic or district hospital.



English Language Requirements									
	CEF Level	Cambridge ESOL	IELTS Band	TOEFL iBT	TOEFL CBT	TOEFL (paper-based)	BULATS	PTE General	PTE Academic
Minimum English Language Requirements	C1	CAE	6.5 (Minimum of 6 on all bands)	79	213	550	75 - 89	Level 4	76 - 84

5. DISTANCE EDUCATION

Distance education offers all the benefits of a residential programme without the need to pay for locums, accommodation, and travel. It also allows learning to take place in the context of your own practice and at times that are convenient for you.

Tuition will be delivered via the Internet, providing access to study guides, resource materials, self-assessment quizzes, interaction with peers and tutors, as well as the submission and processing of assignments and marks.

Students are strongly encouraged to apply for funding to support their training, travel costs to the contact sessions and purchasing of textbooks.

On average, students will need to set aside **4 – 6 hours per week** during the modules for studying. A team of people will be available to provide administrative, technical, and academic support. They will be accessible via the Internet, email and telephone.

To participate in the course the following technical specifications are recommended:

- Internet Access with ADSL or 3G Dongle
- Computer Hardware: (Minimum specs) INTEL or AMD; 2.0 GHz with 1Gb RAM (Memory), 80 Gb Hard drive



6. COURSE CONTENT AND DURATION

This is a 2-year programme. The programme is entirely distance learning, apart from one compulsory contact session at the beginning of the 1st year of studies. The contact sessions will be at the University (Tygerberg Campus).

Regulations state that the PG Dip (Fam Med) must be completed within a maximum period of 4 years (telematic diplomas).

Programme content	Credits
Year 1 & 2 – Clinical Primary Care	20
Learning in Primary Care Teams (775)	20
Primary Care Consultations (775)	20
Community Oriented Primary Care (741)	20
Core Dimensions of Primary Care (775)	20
Clinical Governance for Primary Care (775)	20

Exit Examination: Higher Diploma Examination of the College of Family Physicians of South Africa

7. CONTACT SESSIONS

There will be one **OBLIGATORY** contact week at the beginning of the first academic year. The contact week is essential for orientation and introductory sessions. Attendance is **MANDATORY** for all students.

Dates and Location:

The contact week will take place at **Tygerberg campus**, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University.



CONTENT OF MODULES

A brief description of each module:

7.1 *CLINICAL PRIMARY CARE*

This module deals with 8-key areas that address the burden of disease:

Emergencies	Mental Health
Hiv/Aids, TB and STI's	General Adult Medicine
Orthopaedics	Ent, Eyes and Skin
Women's Health	Child Health

The module's duration is 18 months.

Continuous evaluation is used throughout this module. This will include written assignments, chatrooms and learning plans.

7.2 *PRIMARY CARE CONSULTATIONS*

This module deals with communication, counselling, and consultation skills relevant to primary care consultations, including aspects of Family-Oriented Primary Care.

7.3 *COMMUNITY-ORIENTED PRIMARY CARE*

This module teaches principles of community oriented primary care and students are expected to engage with the initial steps of this process in their own communities.

7.4 *LEARNING IN PRIMARY CARE TEAMS*

This module deals with the steps of the ADDIE educational process (analyse, design, develop, implement and evaluate) with a focus on the educational interaction between the primary care doctor, clinical nurse practitioner and community health workers.

7.5 *CORE DIMENSIONS OF PRIMARY CARE*

This module teaches principles of health promotion and disease prevention within the clinical context of chronic care. The management of common chronic medical disorders is covered in terms of healthcare systems relevant to primary care.



7.6 *CLINICAL GOVERNANCE FOR PRIMARY CARE*

This module deals with the process of understanding clinical and corporate governance and the design and implementation of a quality improvement cycle in collaboration with the Primary Health Care (PHC) team.

8. **ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATION**

Continuous evaluation is used throughout all modules. This may include the use of group work, discussions, written assignments, chatrooms, learning plans and computer-assisted questions.

- You must pass all six modules with a final mark of at least 50%.
If you fail a module or the final examination in a module, you may repeat the module or the examination. Modules are only offered once a year. To repeat a module, you must enrol for the module again in the following academic year. If you are required to repeat the examination in a module only, you may attempt a supplementary examination in the same year.
- If you fail a module, you may repeat it. If you fail the module for the second time, you will be denied the right to attempt the module and be excluded from the programme based on poor progress following approval by the Faculty board.
- As exit examination you must sit the examination for the Higher Diploma in Family Medicine of the College of Family Physicians of South Africa. You may only take the final examination if you have successfully completed all first-year modules and at least 15 months of clinical work as documented in a learning portfolio. The cost of the examination is not included in the university fees. For more information, please visit the website at www.cmsa.co.za.
- If you have failed an exit examination, you may sit for the College examination again as a supplementary examination.
- If you, however, fail a second exit examination, you may be denied the right to qualify for the Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine on recommendation of the Faculty Board.
- To be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine, you must obtain a final mark of not less than 50%.



- To be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine with distinction, you must obtain a final mark of at least 75%.
- A student who is unable to complete the PG Dip (Fam Med) within the prescribed maximum period of 4 years will not be offered any further opportunities to register for the programme.

9. COST

The cost per year will be ± R35, 000. The University reserves the right to make changes to the fees as they appear in this brochure. During your second year of studies, it will be necessary to prepare for and take the College of Medicine of South Africa's Higher Diploma exam. To facilitate your examination process, it is important to note that there will be associated fees, which are estimated to be ±R20,000.00.

These fees cover the costs associated with the examination and its administration. For further details and specific information regarding the examination, including fee breakdowns and registration procedures, we recommend visiting the official College of Medicine of South Africa website at: <https://www.cmsa.co.za/examinations/>.

For quotations, please use the following link at the time of registration: <https://web-apps.sun.ac.za/student-fees-estimate/#/home>.

Students are strongly encouraged to apply for funding to support their training, travel costs to the contact sessions, and textbooks.

10. ACCREDITATION

Completion of the programme will enable you to receive your Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine from Stellenbosch University. You will also be eligible for 10 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for successful participation in each module of the programme, which will meet your annual requirements for the Health Professions Council of South Africa.



11. EXEMPTION

Possible exemption on the grounds of comparable academic training gained at another recognized institution may be granted by the University in respect of the prescribed modules. The University will consider each application on its merits.

12. INTERRUPTION OF STUDIES

If you are temporarily unable to engage with your studies, you may apply for an authorised interruption of studies by submitting your application to the Postgraduate Programme Committee and the Faculty Board for consideration.

13. DISCONTINUATION / CANCELLATION OF STUDIES

Should you decide to leave the University without completing your study programme, it is necessary to formally notify the Postgraduate Programme Coordinator & Administrator in writing, indicating the reason(s) for discontinuing your studies.

14. CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS - SEPTEMBER 30th

- To apply, submit your application online at www.maties.com or <http://www0.sun.ac.za/pgstudies> with all the necessary supporting documents before the closing date of September 30th.
- A final decision on applications will be communicated to candidates in mid-November. Please note that your application will only be considered once we receive all your supporting application documents.
- If you fail to upload all the required documents by the closing date, your application will not be considered. Ensure that all your application documents, as well as proof of payment (where applicable), are uploaded online before the programme's closing date.



Stellenbosch



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saam vorentoe

BANKING DETAILS

Account name:	Stellenbosch University
Bank:	Standard Bank Limited
Branch:	Stellenbosch
Branch code:	050610
Branch address:	20 Bird Street, Stellenbosch
Account number:	073006955
Swift code:	SBZAZAJJ
Reference:	Student number / Application number
Email proof of payment to:	nicolec@sun.ac.za

For All Enquiries, Please Contact:

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