

Indicators on South African Public Universities 2009–2014

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.

Business (as a field of study)

All majors in business, commerce, management, accounting, finance.

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.

Humanities (as a field of study)

All majors in education, languages, fine and applied arts, social sciences.

Major fields of study

Information gathered with regard to students' major fields of study is based on the intentions of students as expressed at the time of registration for each new academic year. It is not possible to

capture changes made by students during the course of the year, as these do not occur at defined moments.

Masters and doctors

Masters Degree: a qualification which has a bachelor's degree as a minimum entry requirement, and a minimum completion time of one year. Masters degrees typically fall into one of the following two categories:

- general qualifications which are intended to be a continuation of discipline-specific studies covered a first bachelors degree, or
- professional qualifications which allow for deeper training in a profession, and have less emphasis on research.

Doctoral Degree: a qualification which has a masters' degree as a minimum entry requirement, and a minimum completion time of one to two years. This is a research degree in which each student has to demonstrate the ability to produce new knowledge.

Postgraduates

Persons who are registered for a qualification which has an undergraduate qualification as an entrance requirement.

Qualification type

Undergraduate student: A person who is registered for a qualification which does not have another higher education qualification as an entrance requirement.

Postgraduate up to masters: South African higher education institutions offer some postgraduate qualifications below masters level, for example postgraduate diplomas.

SET (Science, Engineering, Technology)

All majors in science, engineering and technology, including the health sciences.

Success Rates

This ratio indicates what proportion of the courses for which students were enrolled were passed in a specific year. An average of 80% is the norm set by the South African Department of Education. Success rates are calculated by dividing the university's FTE enrolled student total by its FTE degree credit total. An FTE degree credit total is calculated in the same way as an FTE enrolled student total, but taking account only of the courses actually passed by students.

Undergraduates

Persons who are registered for a qualification which does not have another higher education qualification as an entrance requirement.

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).