

# Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)

The MBChB programme takes six years to complete. After graduating with an MBChB degree and completing two years' internship and a year's community service, you will be allowed by the Health Professions Council of South Africa to practise as a medical doctor.



Our 6-year degree provides world-class training for students who wish to practice as medical doctors. The goals of the graduate profile are achieved by a carefully constructed curriculum which aims to produce a competent, undifferentiated doctor with the attitudes, knowledge and skills to enter the healthcare field with confidence. This entails a balance between preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare in a primary healthcare setting. It promotes communication skills, teamwork, professional values and competent clinical practice, in the context of the primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare systems. The educational approach equips students with critical thinking and lifelong learning skills.

**As a medical doctor, you may join a doctor's practice, open your own practice, work in a public or private hospital or in a community clinic, or work in a variety of other settings. You may decide to specialise in a discipline of your choice.**

There are more than 30 specialities to choose from. Training in a speciality takes four to five years, during which you are employed as a registrar in a teaching hospital and paid a salary. A specialist (such as a paediatrician) may also decide to specialise further, in one of a number of subspecialities (such as paediatric cardiology). Training in a subspeciality takes two years, during which you are employed as a senior registrar in a teaching hospital. A range of other postgraduate diplomas and degrees is also available to enable graduates to enter careers in, for example, health economics, sports management, or clinical or laboratory-based research.

**Before our students enter the wards and are exposed to patients, they undertake an oath that reflects the values upheld by the profession. These are:**

- Pledging to serve humanity
- Making the most important considerations to be the health of patients and the health of their communities
- Not permitting considerations of age, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disease, disability or any other factor to adversely affect the care-giving to patients
- Upholding human rights and civil liberties to advance health, even under threat
- Engaging patients and colleagues as partners in healthcare
- Practising the profession with conscience and dignity
- Respecting the confidentiality of patients, present or past, living or deceased
- Valuing research and being guided in its conduct by the highest ethical standards
- Committing to lifelong learning



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