

# 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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FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

If you need more information about our programme, or about studying at the University of Cape Town, please contact the admissions office on **(021) 406 6328** or **(021) 406 6347** or email: **fhs-admiss@uct.ac.za**

# What is Physiotherapy?

Physiotherapy is an applied discipline dedicated to the study of human movement and function and its relevance to health and well-being and is aimed at optimising quality of life in both individuals and communities.



**Within the healthcare team Physiotherapy plays a role in:**

- the promotion of a healthy life style
- the prevention of illness and injury for those at risk
- the rehabilitation and restoration of an individual's function following injury or impairment of function (disability)
- the holistic approach to management includes counselling, which empowers the client to improve his or her quality of life.

The physiotherapist is trained to work in many settings as a member of the health care team. This may be in patient/client homes, community centres, and in the outpatient clinics, wards and intensive care units of hospitals.

**There are three main areas within the discipline:**

- Neuromusculoskeletal (NMS) and Orthopaedics
- Neurology - Adult and Paediatric
- Cardio-Pulmonary

The duration of the degree programme is normally four years. Selected students may be required or permitted to complete the degree in five years of study and may receive additional tuition and support in the course of their studies.

## Career opportunities

There are career opportunities within areas of special interest, for example special schools, geriatric centres, industry and sports centres. Further expertise can be developed through continuing education, teaching within the profession and research. Physiotherapists may also become involved in other broader areas of healthcare such as the management of health facilities, policy planning or education of future healthcare professionals.

A degree in Physiotherapy leads to registration with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as a Physiotherapist.

# What is Audiology?

**Audiology is the profession dealing with the assessment and management of hearing, hearing loss, and ear-related balance disorders.**

**The audiologist is also involved in promoting healthy ear and hearing habits, and preventing or minimising disability due to hearing loss or balance disorders. Audiology is one of the fastest-growing health professions, due to rapid technological advancements.**



## **Audiologists:**

- measure and diagnose hearing ability
  - provide rehabilitative services to children and adults with a hearing loss
  - fit hearing aids and assistive listening devices
  - consult on issues concerning noise-induced hearing loss, and develop hearing conservation programmes
  - manage individuals with auditory processing difficulties
  - manage people with ear-related balance problems
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- serve as expert witnesses in litigation related to their areas of expertise
  - aim to prevent and/or minimise hearing loss and its effects
  - conduct research on hearing and the balance system.

## Is Audiology for me?

If you thrive on challenges and want to assist people in improving their quality of life, Audiology is a profession that could fulfil those needs. You can choose to work across the age-spectrum, or work only with adults or children (an audiologist can even do a hearing test on a one-hour old baby).

The ability to speak African languages, in addition to English, is a valuable resource in providing audiology services.

The BSc in Audiology is a four-year course of full time study. Your training involves the medical, scientific, social and psychological aspects of hearing, speech and language. You will learn about the anatomy and physiology of hearing; normal communication development; early intervention; assessment and management for child and adult clients with different hearing or balance problems.

If you obtain the BSc Audiology degree, you will be registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as an audiologist.

# What is Speech-Language Pathology?

Speech-language pathology is the profession dealing with the assessment and management of communication disorders due to speech and language breakdown.

As a speech-language pathologist you will assess and treat children and adults who have a wide range of communication difficulties. These difficulties may include stuttering, problems with speech sound production or acquiring language; voice disorders; the loss or impairment of speech and language in adults who have a stroke or brain injury. A further important aspect of speech-language pathology is the assessment and management of children and adults who have difficulties with feeding or swallowing.



## Speech Language Pathologists:

- work with children and adults with dyslexia
- can help prevent stuttering in young children
- work with young babies who cannot feed or swallow properly
- set up alternative communication systems for individuals who cannot speak
- work with children who are born with a cleft lip/palate
- work with adults who have impaired communication after a car accident.

## Is Speech-Language Pathology for me?

If you are passionate about communication and want to make a difference in peoples' lives then this may be the career for you!

The field offers wide clinical and research opportunities. Speech-language pathologists work with individuals, groups and communities of all ages, not only on assessment and management of communication disorders, but also promoting health and communication and disability prevention.

Speech-language pathologists may work in pre-schools, schools, special schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centres, community clinics or private practice. Students who can speak languages in addition to English will find these languages a very important asset.

If you obtain the BSc Speech-Language Pathology degree, you will be registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as a Speech-language Pathologist.



# What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational therapists are health care professionals that help people overcome practical problems of living that arise as a result of illness, impairment, disability or societal conditions.



If someone has suffered a stroke, for example, the Occupational Therapist, as part of the health care team, will work with the person to help him/her cope with and adjust to practical life situations. There is a strong emphasis on psychology and rehabilitation, and on empowering people who have suffered health and other setbacks to regain quality of life.

Opportunities are created throughout the course for practice learning. Lectures take place on the Faculty of Health Sciences campus, in the Division of Occupational Therapy at Groote Schuur Hospital and on the Upper and Middle Campuses of the University. Transport may be provided between the Upper Campus and Medical School and, when possible, to the more distant practice learning sites.

Occupational therapists are important contributors to all levels of health care and community development. It is a profession that encompasses various domains of practice - mental health, physical health, child learning development & play, work practice and community development practice.

Occupational therapists may set up their own practices and/or work with individuals, groups, communities, and in many kinds of organisations (e.g. hospitals or drug addiction clinics, in labour organisations, industry, schools, justice departments, as well as non-governmental organisations). The degree in Occupational Therapy leads to registration with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as an Occupational Therapist. Graduates are required to complete one year of community service, after which they will be registered as independent practitioners.