









## 5. FIRST-TIME ENTERING ADMISSIONS BY FINANCIAL AID

- Admissions by financial aid is tracked by the number of first-time entering undergraduate (FU) students who receive funding through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).
- National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) supports access to, and success in, higher education and training for students from poor and working class families who would otherwise not be able to afford to study.
- Table 5 below shows that the proportion of FU students on NSFAS financial aid increased from 29% (1235) in 2023 to 30% (1382) in 2024.

Table 5: FU Admissions by Financial Aid

|                               | 2020       | 2021       | 2022       | 2023       | 2024       |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Total FU Admissions</b>    | 4140       | 4395       | 3841       | 4273       | 4597       |
| <b>FU Admissions on NSFAS</b> | 1352       | 1541       | 1033       | 1235       | 1382       |
| <b>% NSFAS Financial Aid</b>  | <b>33%</b> | <b>35%</b> | <b>27%</b> | <b>29%</b> | <b>30%</b> |

## 6. FIRST-TIME ENTERING ADMISSIONS BY SCHOOL POVERTY QUINTILE

- The South African school quintile classification system is a government mechanism used to allocate funding to public schools based on the relative poverty of the community they serve. It was introduced through the South African Schools Act, 84 of 1996 (SASA), as amended, and further regulated by the National Norms and Standards for School Funding (1998).
- Schools are divided into five quintiles (Q1–Q5), ranked from poorest to least poor, according to factors such as income, literacy, and unemployment levels in the surrounding area.
- Quintiles 1 to Quintile 3 schools are non-fee paying schools with learners from low-income households:
  - Quintile 1 (Q1) – Poorest schools, serving the most disadvantaged communities.
  - Quintile 2 (Q2) – Very poor schools, though marginally better resourced than Q1.
  - Quintile 3 (Q3) – Schools serving lower-middle-income communities.
- Table 6 below shows that the proportion of first-time entering undergraduate (FU) students from the lowest quintile schools (Quintiles 1-3) remained the same at 24% in 2023 and 2024, although actual number of students increased from 1030 in 2023 to 1117 in 2024.

Table 6: FU Admissions by School Poverty Quintile

|  | 2020       | 2021       | 2022       | 2023       | 2024       |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Total FU Admissions</b>                     | 4140       | 4395       | 3841       | 4273       | 4597       |
| <b>FU Admissions from School Quintiles 1-3</b> | 886        | 1312       | 960        | 1030       | 1117       |
| <b>% School Quintiles 1-3</b>                  | <b>21%</b> | <b>30%</b> | <b>25%</b> | <b>24%</b> | <b>24%</b> |

## 7. ADMISSIONS BY DISABILITY

- Table 7 below shows that the proportion of students with disability has remained at 2% for the past four years.

Table 7: Admissions by Disability

|                                   | 2020      | 2021      | 2022      | 2023      | 2024      |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Total Headcount Admissions</b> | 28477     | 29618     | 29425     | 29034     | 29396     |
| <b>Admissions with disability</b> | 721       | 696       | 682       | 681       | 713       |
| <b>% Disability</b>               | <b>3%</b> | <b>2%</b> | <b>2%</b> | <b>2%</b> | <b>2%</b> |