

University of Cape Town
Universiteit van Kaapstad • University of Cape Town • iYunivesithi yasekapa



Faculty of Health Sciences





Welcome to the Faculty of Health Sciences

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) Faculty of Health Sciences is committed to improving the health of the people of South Africa and beyond. Its prestige today is rooted in over 100 years of excellence. This is the home of the oldest medical school in southern Africa, and the site of famous advances in healthcare – including the world's first successful heart transplant in 1967 and research that led to the development of the CT scan.



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Health equity is vital for an inclusive and just society. The Faculty of Health Sciences continues to commit to health equity through innovative teaching and learning, producing graduates for complex times, cutting-edge research that responds to complex, multifaceted questions, and adaptive service to the community through the healthcare system and beyond. We commit ourselves to making a difference for the nation, the continent and globally.

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Associate Professor Lionel Green-Thompson
Dean of Health Sciences

Did you know?

1. Of the 86 accredited research groupings at UCT, 35 are in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

2. Eleven health science academics have had national orders (South Africa's highest award for citizens) bestowed on them.

3. Every first-year student is assigned a mentor from their department who helps them to adjust to their study programme and life at UCT.



Research

35 accredited research groupings spanning basic, clinical, rehabilitation and public health sciences.
4 South African research chairs**

R2 091 million in research contracts entered into in 2023
9 A-RATED RESEARCHERS*
786 postgraduates graduated in 2024, including 105 PhDs.

*As rated by the National Research Foundation

**Research positions jointly funded by the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation, aimed at strengthening South Africa's ability to produce high-quality research, innovation and students.



Latest Student Figures

1 817 registered undergraduates

1 490 registered and counting postgraduates



14 departments



1. Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine brings together the professions of acute pain service, cardiothoracic anaesthesia and critical care, among others.

2. Integrative Biomedical Sciences provides teaching and training in basic biochemical sciences to undergraduate students in the faculty, and biochemical sciences, systems biology and computational biology to postgraduate students. The focus is on building capacity in scarce skills, including bioinformatics and large data analysis, as well as integrative and multidisciplinary molecular sciences.

3. Medicine is a large and complex department with a substantial global profile based partly at Groote Schuur Hospital and several secondary hospitals.

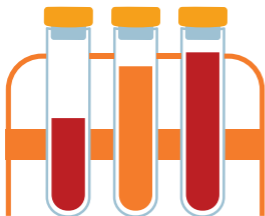
4. Surgery includes cardiothoracic surgery, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, and plastic and reconstructive surgery, among others.

5. Health and Rehabilitation Sciences consists of the divisions of communication sciences and disorders, disability studies, nursing and midwifery, occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

6. Health Sciences Education works to enrich the quality of education across the faculty and in all teaching facilities used by the faculty.

7. Radiation Medicine is where innovation meets excellence. The department is dedicated to advancing the forefront of research, audiology, radiation oncology, nuclear medicine and medical physics.

8. Human Biology brings together several medical, scientific and clinical academic disciplines: biomedical engineering, cell biology, clinical anatomy and biological anthropology, exercise science and physiological sciences.



9. Public Health and Family Medicine is a strong multidisciplinary department with divisions in public health medicine, family medicine, occupational medicine, epidemiology and biostatistics, health economics, health policy and systems, social and behavioural sciences, and environmental health.

10. Psychiatry and Mental Health

aims to integrate teaching, research and clinical services. This integrated approach takes place across the different divisions in psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, liaison psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, intellectual disability psychiatry, neuropsychiatry, general adult psychiatry, psychopharmacology and biological psychiatry, psychotherapy and public mental health.

11. Obstetrics and Gynaecology trains medical students from their third year to sixth year. Postgraduate training includes gynaecological oncology, reproductive medicine and foetal medicine.

12. Family, Community and Emergency Care (FaCE) includes the disciplines of family medicine, emergency medicine, palliative care and sports medicine.

13. Paediatrics and Child Health aims to promote, restore and maintain the health and well-being of children and adolescents by providing clinical services, research, undergraduate and postgraduate training, programme and policy support and advocacy for child health.

14. Pathology comprises eight divisions and undertakes research aimed at understanding the mechanisms, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases.



2 500+ staff



2 500+
postgraduates



2 000+
undergraduates



120 postdoctoral f
ellows in 2025, 84%
from Africa (including
57% South African).

Contact US



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POSTGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

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