

Admission Requirements and Selection Criteria for BEng Programmes for 2027

1. Principles for undergraduate enrolment management

The University Council sets enrolment targets regarding the fields of study and diversity profile of the student body of Stellenbosch University, as well as the total number of students at the University. The University then manages all the enrolments from prospective undergraduate students to reach these targets and to ensure that the number of enrolments is within the available capacity, per programme. This means that there may be applicants who meet the admission requirements for a given programme but are not admitted.

The following points of departure apply when undergraduate enrolments are managed:

- Establishing an equitable, transparent, and reasonable process for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.
- Contributing to the creation of an inclusive student community, where diversity is regarded as an asset.
- Attracting and admitting academically excellent students.
- Admitting prospective students who have the potential to graduate successfully and to be well-equipped thought leaders for the future.
- Offering equal opportunities to prospective students who are equally situated and facilitating redress where individuals or categories of people were or still are disadvantaged due to past unfair discrimination.

2. Due dates and the use of Grade 11 results

2.1. Application Due Dates

Applications close 31 July of the year before the intended start of study.

2.2. Conditional Offer

If applicants, at the time of their application, are in Grade 12, their final Grade 11 results are used to decide whether they qualify for a conditional offer. The conditional offer must be accepted by the applicant and will expire if it is not timeously accepted. Once the conditional offer is accepted, the applicant status will change to "final offer pending".

Final offers can only be issued after the final Grade 12 results of the applicant becomes available (in January of the following year). Applicants will receive a final offer if the applicants' final Grade 12 results meet the minimum admission requirements for the BEng programme and provided that the applicants' selection score based on Grade 12 results do not drop more than 40 points below the Grade 11 selection threshold for the programme. If a final offer is issued, the applicant status will change from "final offer pending" to "final offer issued". The applicant must accept the final offer before it expires.

2.3. Final Offer

If applicants, at the time of application, have already completed Grade 12, their final Grade 12 results are used to determine their admission and, if selected, they receive a final offer. The applicant must accept the final offer before it expires.

3. Minimum admission requirements

Prospective applicants who meet the below-mentioned minimum admission requirements are considered for selection, as per Section 4 and 5.

3.1. Language of Tuition

The admission requirement for language is given below, but applicants should note that the lectures in all undergraduate modules are presented in English and Afrikaans lectures are also offered (in parallel sessions) in most of the modules of the first three semesters of the BEng programmes. In the first year of study, simultaneous interpreting (where English lectures are interpreted into Afrikaans) is offered when parallel sessions are not offered. All question papers of major assessments are available in both English and Afrikaans up to the third year and thereafter in English. Applicants are free to write any paper or assignment in either English or Afrikaans. Further details about the language of tuition in BEng programmes are given at www.su.ac.za/en/faculties/engineering.

3.2. National Senior Certificate (NSC) or Independent Examination Board (IEB)

Only applicants who meet the following requirements will be considered for selection:

- Have a NSC or IEB pass with admission to bachelor's studies, or an exemption certificate issued by the Matriculation Board; and
- Have obtained an average of at least 70% in the relevant final school examination; and
- Have passed the National Senior Certificate or equivalent examination in Mathematics with at least 70% and Physical Sciences with at least 60%; and
- Have, in the National Senior Certificate examination, or equivalent, obtained the following minimum achievements in language subjects:
 - English Home Language: 50% (with no Afrikaans requirement) or
 - English First Additional Language: 60% (with no Afrikaans requirement) or
 - English First Additional Language: 50%, together with Afrikaans Home Language: 50% or
 - English First Additional Language: 50%, together with Afrikaans Second Additional Language: 60%.

3.3. International Schools

Applicants from international schools should refer to the 2027 international curricula information at www.su.ac.za/en/apply/undergrad (go to Apply – [International Curricula](#)).

3.4 Other School Examination Boards

Applicants from the following school examination boards are required to complete the National Benchmark Test (NBT) or SATs.

- American High School Diploma (may write the NBT or SATs)
- IEB: International Secondary Certificate (only required to write NBT)
- Applicants from an online schooling system (e.g ACE School of Tomorrow) (only required to write NBT)

Only applicants who meet the following requirements will be considered for selection:

- National Benchmark Test (NBT) requirements - *subject to Faculty Board approval in May 2026*:
 - Academic Literacy (AL) - 60%
 - Quantitative Literacy (QL) - 60%
 - Mathematics (MAT) - 65%
- SAT requirements - *subject to Faculty Board approval in May 2026*:
 - Overall score = 1130
 - Evidence-based reading and writing = 610
 - Mathematics = 670

ACE SCHOOL OF TOMORROW:

In addition to the NBT requirements above, you are also required to submit a letter of support from the ACE Schools Head Office.

AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (AHSD):

In addition to the NBT/SAT requirements above, you need to submit a certificate of matriculation exemption, as issued by USAf (Universities SA) before you may receive a final offer. Please visit the USAf website at mb.usaf.ac.za/united-states-of-america/ to view the exemption requirements.

4. Selection Criteria

Only applicants that meet the minimum admission requirements given above are considered for selection.

The school results and other relevant information are considered for applicants near the admission and selection thresholds.

The main selection mechanism is the selection score. To calculate the selection score, the percentages achieved in the respective NSC or IEB school subjects are used, as follows:

$$\text{Selection score} = \text{Mathematics} + \text{Physical Science} + 6 \times \text{Average}$$

The maximum selection score is therefore 800. The average percentage is normally calculated using the applicant's six best matric subjects (excluding Life Orientation and including Mathematics and Physical Science).

4.1. Selection criteria for international schools (including applicants with separate Physics and Chemistry subjects)

For international schools with only 5 subjects (e.g. Cambridge), the converted percentage of the 5 school subjects are used to calculate the average percentage. Applicants from international schools should refer to the [International Curricula booklet](#) for information on conversion of international grades. To calculate the selection score, the converted percentages achieved in the respective international school subjects are used.

Selection Score = (A or AS level or HL Mathematics) + (A or AS level or HL Physical Science) + 6 x Average

For international schools where Chemistry and Physics are taken as separate subjects, the average of these two is used in the selection score instead of Physical Science. In these cases, at least one of the two must be at A or AS or HL level, while for some programmes the other may be accepted at IGCSE or OL or SL level, as detailed below:

For Chemical Eng:

Selection Score = (A or AS level or HL Mathematics) + (average of A or AS level or HL Chemistry AND A or AS level or HL or IGCSE or OL or SL Physics) + 6 x Average

For Civil Engineering, Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering:

Selection Score = (A or AS level or HL Mathematics) + (average of A or AS level or HL Physics AND A or AS level or HL or IGCSE or OL or SL Chemistry) + 6 x Average

For Industrial Engineering and Electrical & Electronic Engineering (General & Data)

Selection Score = (A or AS level or HL Mathematics) + (average of either one of A or AS level or HL Physics or Chemistry AND A or AS level or HL or IGCSE or OL or SL Physics or Chemistry) + 6 x Average

5. Selections Process for Four-year BEng Programmes

The admission thresholds for each programme are influenced by the number of applicants and the number of student places available in the programme. The final selection thresholds for the respective BEng programmes are therefore only determined after the closing date for applications and can vary from programme to programme. The admission thresholds given below are revised annually.

5.1. Before 31 July (before the closing date of applications)

Applicants that meet the following provisional selection thresholds are selected upon receipt of a complete application (conditional, if based on Grade 11 results):

4-year BEng Programme*	Chemical	Civil	Electrical & Electronic (Data Eng)	Electrical & Electronic (General)	Industrial	Mechanical	Mecha-tronic
Minimum Selection Score	640	600	620	620	620	660	660
Minimum Average	70%						
Minimum Mathematics	75%						
Minimum Physical Science	65%						

The selection of the following applications is not finalised and are considered further after 31 July:

- Applicants with selection scores above 570, and
- Applicants that have selection scores above 540 and that meet the requirements for admission to the extended degree programmes.

Applicants that do not meet the above requirements are informed that their applications were unsuccessful.

Please also refer to Section 5.5 regarding being considered for BEng programmes other than that given in the three preferences in the application.

5.2. After 31 July (after the closing date of applications)

Finalising applications and selection processes after the closing date of applications normally takes 6 to 8 weeks.

After the final selection thresholds have been determined (considering the number of places and applicants), applicants whose applications are still under consideration (i.e. status: "reviewed", or "in progress") and that meet the final selection thresholds of the particular programme will receive a conditional offer (if based on Grade 11 results). Alternatively, they are placed on the waiting list.

Acceptance of late applications and further consideration of applicants on the waiting list are determined by the availability of places in the programme concerned.

Please also refer to Section 5.5 regarding being considered for BEng programmes other than that given in the three preferences in the application.

5.3. After the Matric Results Have Been Released

The status of applicants that previously accepted a final offer remains unchanged.

Applicants that accepted the conditional offer (status: "final offer pending") with Matric results that meet the admission requirements for the BEng programmes, will receive a final offer, provided that their Grade 12 selection score did not drop more than 40 points below the Grade 11 selection score for the programme. Applicants on the waiting list, or those who request reconsideration, are thereafter considered for the places available in each of the programmes.

If a final offer is issued, the applicant status will change from "final offer pending" to "final offer issued". The applicant must accept the final offer before it expires.

5.4. Application currently/previously enrolled at another university or other tertiary education institutions

Applicants currently/previously enrolled at another university or other tertiary education institutions, who want to transfer to a BEng programme in the Faculty of Engineering must submit their final school-leaving results and full academic record from the other tertiary institution. These applicants will be placed on the waiting list until September/October, and their selection will depend on their academic performance in matric and at the other tertiary education institution.

Applicants currently enrolled at another university or other tertiary education institutions will remain on the waiting list until their academic record of the current academic year

from the other tertiary institution are available and have been uploaded on their profile on the application portal.

Please also go to section 2.4.2 Applicants with prior tertiary learning of the [Engineering Yearbook 2026](#) for more information on admission requirements.

5.5. Changing the Preferred BEng Programmes in the Application

Applicants who applied for a BEng programme may request that one of the three preferences on their applications be changed to another BEng programme. Such requests should be submitted to info@sun.ac.za, also citing their application number (APP/...) and which of the three preferences should be changed. These applications will then be reconsidered for admission and selection for the newly indicated BEng preference according to the normal selection process given above.

6. Extended Curriculum Programmes

The Extended Curriculum Programmes (ECPs) were introduced to help students with educationally disadvantaged backgrounds to master the BEng programmes. Educational disadvantages include dimensions of socio-economic circumstances and educational or teaching circumstances. The ECPs offer alternative access to the programmes of the Faculty of Engineering. BEng ECPs require one extra year of study, which precedes the curriculum of the 4-year BEng programmes. Students who have completed this extra year successfully, and who meet certain additional requirements, may continue with the curriculum of the 4-year BEng programmes.

6.1. Application Process

Applicants do not apply for the ECPs but apply for the 4-year programmes. A limited number of applicants that are not selected for the 4-year programmes, but that do meet the admission and selection requirements of the ECPs, are considered for admission to the ECPs.

6.2 Minimum admission requirements for the Extended Curriculum Programmes

Only South African applicants that are in matric in the year they apply and meet the following requirements, are normally considered for admission:

- A NSC of IEB pass with admission to bachelor's studies, or an exemption certificate by the Matriculation Board
- An average of at least 60% in the NSC
- An NSC Mathematics mark of at least 60%
- An NSC Physical Sciences mark of at least 50%
- NSC language marks that meet one of the following:
 - English Home Language 50% (with no Afrikaans requirement) or
 - English First Additional Language 60% (with no Afrikaans requirement) or
 - English First Additional Language 50% and Afrikaans Home Language 50% or
 - English First Additional Language 50% and Afrikaans Second Additional Language 60%

6.3 Selection Criteria

Applicants that meet the above minimum admission requirements are selected for the ECPs using the same selection criteria that are applicable to the 4-year programmes, but with adjusted thresholds. The thresholds are only determined after the closing date for applications, but the following selection thresholds are **indicative**:

Minimum Selection Score:	560
Minimum Average:	60 %
Minimum Mathematics:	65 %
Minimum Physical Science:	55 %
Socio-Economics Score:	3 or more

After the matric results have been released, applicants that accepted the conditional offer (status: "final offer pending") with Matric results that meet the admission requirements for the BEng ECP programmes will receive a final offer provided that their Grade 12 selection score did not drop more than 40 points below the Grade 11 selection score for the programme.

Applicants that are issued with a conditional offer (based on Grade 11 results) for an ECP and who do better in the Grade 12 examinations, may be reconsidered for an offer to a 4-year programme during final selection.