



FACULTY FACT SHEET



THIS IS US

The future of healthcare, today

The Faculty of Health Sciences was formed in 1989 and is the youngest faculty in the North-West University family. Since its inception, it has grown into one of the largest of its kind in the country.

With a distinct focus on holistic and multidisciplinary teaching, the faculty adheres to the standards set by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and trains health professionals who promote good health and overall well-being.

The faculty is made up of five academic schools that offer training, postgraduate study and research in several specialised fields within the health sciences sphere.

Faculty facts

In their 2024 edition of the Global 2000 list, the Centre for World University Rankings (CWUR) placed the NWU in the top 4,2% of universities.

- Several members of the faculty staff are affiliated with acclaimed organisations such as the Academy of Science in South Africa, the National Health Research Ethics Council, the National Health Research Committee, the International Organisation of Women in Science, and the International Society of Hypertension.
- Olympic athlete and gold medallist Caster Semenya is a proud graduate of the faculty.
- In December 2023, the faculty received ministerial approval to establish a medical school. The first intake of students is planned for 2028.
- The Minister of Health has appointed two of the faculty's experts as members of the National Health Research Committee to identify priorities and offer input into health research.



ON GOOD AUTHORITY

Message from the executive dean, Prof Awie Kotzé

Our faculty is brimming with energy and enthusiasm and our staff members are looking forward to welcoming you in our midst.

In our faculty, we strive to maintain a culture of caring, where the needs of others are considered and respected.

When you graduate from the Faculty of Health Sciences, you will be equipped with the best knowledge there is to make a positive difference to the lives of others.



Our faculty in numbers

(Staff and student figures as on 25 April 2024)



Undergraduate students:
5 570



Postgraduate students:
688



International students:
139



Academic staff:
330



Support staff:
515



NRF-rated researchers:
49

SCHOOLS & PROGRAMMES



The faculty consists of five schools:

School of Human Movement Sciences

Sport coaching and human movement science is an integrated discipline aimed at applying the most recent scientific knowledge to empower athletes to access their full performance potential. This qualification equips the student with a sound understanding of the anatomical principles and structures of the human body, and the programme is offered on the Potchefstroom and Mahikeng campuses.

Recreation science covers the study of leisure performance of individuals and communities to identify needs and create opportunities for participation in recreation as part of a healthy lifestyle.

The primary function of **biokinetics** is to improve physical functioning and healthcare through exercise. As a profession, biokinetics is concerned with promoting good health, maintaining physical abilities, and enabling final-phase rehabilitation activities.

School of Pharmacy

A young, qualified pharmacist has a wide choice of career possibilities, depending on their own preference.

School of Applied Health Sciences

Physiology and biochemistry study the functioning of the human body and the chemical processes involved.

The combination of **physiology and psychology** provides students with a holistic understanding of human development, the functions of the brain and body, and the interaction between body, mind, emotions and behaviour.

Occupational hygiene is the discipline of anticipating, recognising, evaluating and controlling health risks in the working environment. The objective is to protect workers' health and well-being while safeguarding the community against general health risks.

Dietitians use their skills and knowledge of nutrition to modify the diets of individuals and groups to treat medical conditions or educate the general public on healthy eating habits to prevent lifestyle diseases such as obesity, hypertension and diabetes.

Consumer scientists promote consumer well-being by creating sustainable associations between consumers and their unique environments. They do this by monitoring and analysing consumer trends and behaviours that are then used in designing, manufacturing and selling various consumer products.

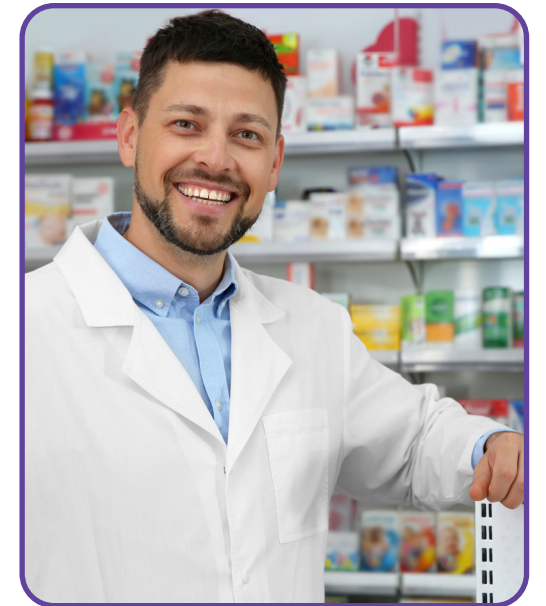
School of Psychosocial Health

Social work is a helping profession that aims to meet the basic and complex needs of all people, with a specific focus on those who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. Social work students are trained to enhance the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities through advocating for social justice, providing counselling, and connecting people with resources and interventions that contribute to the socio-economic development of South African society.

Psychology is the study of human functioning and how it is affected by biological aspects and the environment; it examines cognitive, emotional and motivational processes, normal human and personality development, psychological pathology, and optimum human functioning.

School of Nursing

Nursing is a healthcare profession that combines compassion, science and care to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities. This profession is essential in the promotion of health, the prevention and treatment of diseases and conditions, supporting recovery from illness, and dignified palliative care for terminally ill patients.



[Click here to see which undergraduate programmes we offer](#)

[Click here for our honours programmes](#)

[Click here for our postgraduate programmes](#)

RESEARCH

Research entities

- Centre of Excellence for Nutrition (CEN)
- Centre of Excellence for Pharmaceutical Sciences (PharmacEn)
- Centre of Excellence: Hypertension in Africa Research Team (HART)
- Africa Unit for Transdisciplinary Health Research (AUTHeR)
- Community Psychosocial Research (COMPRES)
- Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation (PhASRec)
- Quality in Nursing and Midwifery (NuMiQ)
- Lifestyle Diseases
- Medicine Usage in South Africa (MUSA)
- Occupational Hygiene and Health Research Initiative (OHHRI)

- Medical Research Council Extramural Unit for Hypertension and Cardiovascular Disease

Commercial research entities

- Centre for Health and Human Performance (CHHP)
- Centre for Health Professions Education (CHPE)

Commercial research entity

- Centre for Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Service (CPBS)

Hosted entities, platforms and institutes

- DSI/NWU Preclinical Drug Development Platform (PCDDP)

APPLICATIONS

Admission requirements

The Faculty of Health Sciences has 11 different admission requirements for various diploma and degree courses. [Click here](#) to download detailed information.

How do I apply?

Please refer to our [website](#) for online application.

Money matters

For a wide range of bursaries and financial support, please contact 018 299 2672.

We want to hear from you

Phone 018 285 2376 (undergraduate and honours) or 018 299 4013 (higher degrees). You can also contact [Annelien Beckley](#) (undergraduate and honours) or [Susan Lindeque](#) (higher degrees) or visit [our webpage](#).

