

Faculty of Health Sciences

Faculty highlights

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.



Faculty in numbers

(Staff and student figures as on 1 April 2026)

 **982**
Postgraduate students

 **59**
NRF-rated researchers

 **373**
Academic staff

 **522**
Support staff

 **157**
International students

Internationally Recognised



The NWU continues to shine in global rankings. In its 2023/24 edition of the Global 2000 list, the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) placed the NWU in the **top 4,1%** of universities. This was even better than the previous year, when the university was in the top 4,7%. In addition, the NWU is ranked tenth in Africa and seventh in South Africa.



In addition to the overall rankings, encompassing 20 966 universities worldwide, the NWU was also ranked according to academic performance. Our score improved from 77,1 to **71,3**, and we were ranked **880th globally** (up from 924th in the previous year). The NWU was ranked 869th (887th last year) for research.

The faculty offers a wide array of learning opportunities through our **five schools**:



School of Human Movement Sciences



School of Pharmacy



School of Applied Health Sciences



School of Psychosocial Health



School of Nursing

Research

Research chair



DSI/NRF Albertina Sisulu Research Chair in Nursing Science (SARChi)

Research entities

Centre of Excellence for Nutrition (CEN)

Centre of Excellence for Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharmacem)

Centre of Excellence: Hypertension in Africa Research Team (HART)

Africa Unit for Trans-disciplinary 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)



Faculty of Health Sciences

Campus	School / Entity
M Mahikeng	AUTHeR Africa Unit for Transdisciplinary Health Research
P Potchefstroom	CHPE Centre for Health Professions Education
V Vanderbijlpark	CEN Centre of Excellence for Nutrition
	Pharmacén Centre of Excellence for Pharmaceutical Sciences
	Compres Community Psychosocial Research
	DSI/PCDDP DSI/NWU Preclinical Drug Development Platform
	HART Hypertension in Africa Research Team
	MUSA Medicine Usage in South Africa
	OHHRI Occupational Hygiene and Health Research Initiative
	PhasRec Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation
	Numiq Quality in Nursing and Midwifery

Qualification	Delivery and Duration	Campus	School/ Entity
Masters Degree			
Master of Arts in Positive Psychology Programme code: 8EY P01 : G802P/V <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years	P V	AUTHeR
Master of Consumer Sciences Programme code: 8CM N01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	AUTHeR
Master of Health Sciences in Clinical Psychology Programme code: 8FL P01 : G801P/M	Full-time: 1-2 years	M P	Compres
Master of Health Sciences in Counselling Psychology Programme code: 8FM P01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years	P	Compres
Master of Health Sciences in Research Psychology Programme code: 8FP P01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years	P	Compres
Master of Health Sciences in Human Movement Sciences Programme code: 8DH N01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	PhasRec
Master of Health Sciences in Health Professions Education Programme code: 8FH N01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years	P	PhasRec
Master of Health Sciences in Psychology Programme code: 8DM N01 : G801M/V <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	M V	Compres
Master of Health Sciences in Recreation Science Programme code: 8CN N01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	PhasRec
Master of Health Sciences in Transdisciplinary Health Promotion Programme code: 8CN N01: G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	PhasRec
Master of Health Sciences in Research Psychology Programme code: 8FP P01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	AUTHeR
Master of Health Sciences in Cardiovascular Physiology Programme code: 8DD N01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years	P	HART
Master of Health Sciences in Occupational Hygiene Programme code: 8FG N01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	OHHRI
Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Chemistry Programme code: 8DE N01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years	P	Pharmacén

Qualification	Delivery and Duration	Campus	School/ Entity
Masters Degree			
Master of Science in Pharmacology Programme code: 8DF N01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years	P	Pharmacen
Master of Science in Pharmaceutics Programme code: 8DG N01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years	P	Pharmacen
Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences Programme code: 8BP N01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years	P	DSI/ PCDDP
Master of Pharmacy in Pharmacy Practice with Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacoepidemiology Programme code: 8ED P01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	MUSA
Master of Pharmacy in Pharmacy Practice with Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy Programme code: 8ED P02 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	MUSA
Master of Pharmacy in Pharmacy Practice with Pharmaceutical Public Healthcare Governance Programme code: 8ED P03 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	MUSA
Master of Science in Nutrition with Therapeutic Nutrition Programme code: 8CW P02 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	CEN
Master of Science in Nutrition with Nutrition Science Programme code: 8CW P03 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	CEN
Master of Science in Nutrition with Nuclear Techniques Programme code: 8CW P04 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	CEN
Master of Science in Nutrition with Public Health Nutrition Programme code: 8CW P05 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	CEN
Master of Science in Nutrition (Research) Programme code: 8DA N01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	CEN
Master of Social Work Programme code: 8CS N01 : G801P/M/V <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	M P V	Compres
Master of Social Work in Child Protection Programme code: 8EU P01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	Compres
Master of Social Work in Forensic Practice Programme code: 8EV P01 : G801P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	Compres
Master of Social Work in School Social Work Programme code: 8FR P01 : G801D-DI <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	P	Compres
Master of Nursing Science Programme code: 8FQ N01 : G801M/P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 1-2 years Part-time	M P	Numiq



Qualification	Delivery and Duration	Campus	School/ Entity
Doctoral Degree			
Doctor of Philosophy in Consumer Sciences Programme code: 8CA R01 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	P	AUTHeR
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences with Human Movement Sciences Programme code: 8CB R05 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	P	PhasRec
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences with Health Professions Education Programme code: 8CB R12 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	P	CHPE
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences with Nursing Science Programme code: 8CB R07 : G901P/M <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	M P	Numiq
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences with Occupational Hygiene Programme code: 8CB R08 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	P	OHHRI
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences with Positive Psychology Programme code: 8CB R09 : G901P/V <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	P V	AUTHeR
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences with Psychology Programme code: 8CB R10 : G901P/M/V <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	M P V	Compres
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences with Recreation Science Programme code: 8CB R11 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	P	PhasRec
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacy with Pharmaceutical Chemistry Programme code: 8CC R01 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years	P	Pharmacén
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacy with Pharmaceutics Programme code: 8CC R02 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years	P	Pharmacén
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacy with Pharmacology Programme code: 8CC R03 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years	P	Pharmacén
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacy with Pharmacy Practice Programme code: 8CC R04 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	P	MUSA
Doctor of Philosophy in Science with Dietetics Programme code: 8CD R01 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	P	CEN
Doctor of Philosophy in Science with Nutrition Programme code: 8CD R02 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	P	CEN
Doctor of Philosophy in Science with Physiology Programme code: 8CD R03 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years	P	HART
Doctor of Philosophy in Science with Pharmaceutical Sciences Programme code: 8CD R04 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years	P	DSI/ PCDDP
Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work Programme code: 8CE R01 : G901P/M/V <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	M P V	Compres
Doctor of Philosophy in Transdisciplinary Health Sciences Programme code: 8CF R01 : G901P <i>Note: Programme closing date</i>	Full-time: 2-3 years Part-time	P	AUTHeR

Please view the admission rules and requirements here!
<http://studies.nwu.ac.za/studies/yearbooks>