

# **University of KwaZulu-Natal**

## **General Academic Rules**

Edgewood Campus  
Howard College Campus  
Medical School Campus  
Pietermaritzburg Campus

**2004**

## THE MERGER OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF DURBAN-WESTVILLE AND NATAL

The Universities of Durban-Westville and Natal merged on 1 January 2004. This means that the university at which you have registered is the merged institution University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The merger of the two institutions is seen as an exciting opportunity to create a new, truly South African university which is committed to excellence in teaching and in research. The Mission and Vision Statement for the new institution states:

"We are committed to building a university that is academically excellent, critically engaged and demographically representative out of a regional system shaped, divided and disadvantaged by apartheid. The creation of a new institution is seen as an exciting opportunity that will allow the region to bring into being a genuinely South African university with a new culture and form, designed to meet the challenges of serving the country and the region in innovative and effective ways. This socially responsive institution will be a world-class institution and an active global player while still serving the KwaZulu-Natal and southern African region."

The new institution will continue to offer existing programmes under existing academic rules until these are amended or restructured by the new Council. This means that the existing programmes at both institutions will be offered to new students in 2004 on the same basis as they are offered at present. There will be some instances where offerings are modified by agreement between the two universities, but in these cases you will be informed of such modifications before the commencement of your studies in 2004.

It is probable that the current organization of faculties and schools will change in 2004, but all the various disciplines that constitute these faculties and schools at present will still exist. Some programmes may relocate to another campus during 2005.

What does this actually mean to you?

- That the new university is committed to ensuring excellent academic standards;
- That you will be able to obtain your degree in whichever programme of study currently on offer for which you register;
- That the new University rates students' interests of major importance and will ensure that any changes to your programme of study will be made in the interests of educational quality.

**Note:** *The University reserves the right from time to time to add to, withdraw or amend in any manner, its rules, and any such additions, withdrawals or amendments shall become binding upon the date of publication or upon such date as may be specified by the Senate and the Council.*

# UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

## GENERAL ACADEMIC RULES FOR DEGREES, DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES

**2004**

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## GENERAL ACADEMIC RULES FOR DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

These Rules have been made by the Senate and approved by the Council in terms of the Higher Education Act (Act No. 101 of 1997), as amended.

### GENERAL RULES

**NOTE:** Except as otherwise stated or prescribed by the Senate and the Council the following rules, GR1 to GR30, shall be applicable to every student who applies and/or registers for any programme or qualification at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (hereinafter referred to as “the University”).

#### **GR1 Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates**

The University may award such degrees, diplomas and certificates as approved by the Senate and the Council.

*Note:* The list of degrees, diplomas and certificates is available from the Registrar's Office on request.

#### **GR2 Eligibility**

Subject to the provisions of the law referred to above, and the following rules, the Senate shall make rules for each faculty, subject to the approval of the Council, relating to:

- (i) the eligibility of a student as a candidate for each degree, diploma or certificate, which may include recognition of prior learning (RPL);
- (ii) the selection process;
- (iii) the period of attendance;
- (iv) the curriculum, work and other requirements which shall be met in order to qualify for each degree, diploma or certificate;
- (v) progression and academic exclusion.

#### **GR3 Modules – definitions**

The following definitions for prerequisite, co-requisite and ancillary modules shall apply to the modules for which they may be prescribed by the board of a faculty:

- (i) A prerequisite module is a module in which a candidate
  - (a) must meet all the requirements for the granting of a supplementary examination, or



(b) must obtain such higher mark as may be prescribed by a faculty, before admission to the module for which it is a prerequisite.

(ii) A co-requisite module is a module in which the examination must be written prior to or in the same semester as the module for which it is prescribed as a co-requisite.

(iii) An ancillary module is a module that does not form part of a major subject in a candidate's curriculum for a degree.

#### **GR4 Completion requirements**

Save by permission of the Senate, credit must have been obtained for all the prescribed modules, including prerequisite and co-requisite modules, before the degree can be awarded.

#### **GR5 Admission to study**

All intending candidates shall produce evidence satisfactory to the Senate of their competence to work for the qualification sought, and the Senate may decline to admit as a candidate for the qualification any person whose previous academic attainments are, in its opinion, not sufficiently high to warrant such admission.

#### **GR6 Admission to a module**

Candidates shall not be admitted to any module in any subject until their curriculums have been approved by the Senate. An approved curriculum may be modified only with the consent of the Senate.

#### **GR7 Admission of students under special conditions**

A person who has graduated from another tertiary institution or who has in any other manner attained a level of competence which in the opinion of the Senate is adequate for the purpose of postgraduate studies or research may be admitted as a student in any faculty of the University.

#### **GR8 Conferment of degrees and awarding of diplomas/certificates**

A degree, diploma or certificate may be conferred or awarded with such distinctions as may be prescribed by the Senate on the recommendation of the board of the faculty concerned.

#### **GR9 Registration**

Before commencing their studies in any semester, all students of the University shall sign their names on the official registration form, thereby signifying their acceptance of the rules of the University.

### **GR10 Payment of fees**

- (i) Every student, before being registered, shall pay the prescribed fee; and
- (ii) Every candidate, before being admitted to an examination, shall pay the prescribed fee;
- (iii) Every candidate, before receiving examination results, shall pay the prescribed fee; and
- (iv) Every candidate, before a degree is conferred or a diploma or certificate awarded, shall have paid all fees as required.

### **GR11 Concurrent registration**

- (i) Except with the permission of the Senate, no student shall be registered as a candidate for more than one degree, diploma or certificate at the same time; nor
- (ii) without such permission shall any student, while registered as a candidate for the examinations of any other tertiary institution, be registered concurrently as a candidate for the examinations of the University.

### **GR12 Attendance**

- (i) Every candidate for a degree, diploma or certificate shall attend such modules, pass such examinations and perform such work as may be prescribed.
- (ii) Every candidate for a degree, diploma or certificate shall attend approved modules of study as a registered student of the University for the number of semesters as prescribed in the rules of the relevant faculty. No candidate shall be deemed to have attended the University in any semester unless the candidate has attended as a registered student for at least three-quarters of that semester.

### **GR13 Extended periods of attendance**

Extended minimum periods of attendance may be prescribed for students who are unable to give their full-time attention to the curriculum.

### **GR14 Duly Performed (DP) Certificate**

- (i) Students shall not be allowed to present themselves for examination in any module unless the Head of the School in which they have studied that module has submitted a certificate to the satisfaction of the Senate stating that they are qualified by attendance and have duly performed the work of the class.
- (ii) Such DP certificates shall be valid for the examinations of the semester in which they are issued, and, with the consent of the board of the faculty concerned, for the examinations, in the same modules, in any subsequent semester.
- (iii) The DP requirements shall be posted upon a suitable notice board.
- (iv) For each module a list of DP certificates awarded and refused shall be posted on a suitable notice board by the last day of teaching.



**GR15 DP certificate - Right of appeal**

- (i) Students have the right to appeal against the refusal of a DP certificate in terms of Rule GR14.
- (ii) Should a student wish to appeal he or she may appeal to the Dean of the faculty, or appointed representative who shall not be the Head of School concerned, whose decision shall be final. An appeal must be made, in the prescribed manner, before the commencement of the semester examination session.

**GR16 Examination requirements**

Except as may otherwise be provided in these Rules, every module taken for a degree shall be completed by passing the University examination or the Senate approved assessment in that module.

**GR17 Pass mark**

The pass mark for all modules in the University shall be 50%, with the exception of the College of Medicine examinations. This shall be made up of the examination mark and/or such coursework as approved by the Senate and shall be subject to any prescribed sub-minima.

**GR18 Exclusion from the faculty**

- (i) Candidates who do not satisfy the minimum requirements in regard to study, attendance, passing of examinations or approved assessments and the performance of such work as may be prescribed by a faculty, may be refused permission to register as a student or to continue their studies in that faculty, as the case may be.
- (ii) Candidates excluded in terms of this rule may not be re-admitted to the same faculty until a period of at least two semesters has elapsed nor may they, during that period, be registered in another faculty, except as may be provided in terms of Rule GR19.

**GR19 Exclusion - Right of appeal**

- (i) Students have the right to appeal against exclusion in terms of Rule GR18.
- (ii) Such appeal shall be lodged, in the Faculty Office in the prescribed manner, within 14 days of the release of final results.

**GR20 External examination**

- (i) Students shall be assessed by one or more of the teachers of the module who shall be known as the internal examiner(s).
- (ii) Except with the permission of the Senate,
  - (a) at least two thirds of the assessment in any module, determined by Senate to be an exit level module, shall be examined by one or more external examiners who shall not be members of the University.



(b) at least one half of the assessment in any other module shall be examined by one or more external examiners who shall not have been connected with the teaching of the students in that module.

### **GR21 Class reports**

In deciding whether a candidate has passed the examination or other test of the University in any module, the Senate shall have power to take into consideration a report of the teacher or teachers on the class work of such a candidate.

### **GR22 Oral examinations**

- (i) Students may be required to present themselves for oral examination, in addition to written and practical examinations as may be prescribed.
- (ii) On the recommendation of the Head of School, with the approval of the Senate, a written examination may, for a particular student, be replaced with an oral examination.

### **GR23 Remarking of examination scripts**

The remarking of any examination, test or any other form of assessment is not permitted but, students have the right to see their examination scripts under the supervision of an academic staff member.

### **GR24 Examination sessions**

Examinations shall be set only in the prescribed sessions, as approved annually by the Senate.

### **GR25 Special and supplementary examinations - definitions**

#### **(i) SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION**

A supplementary examination is that examination which shall be awarded when a candidate

(a) has failed the module with such minimum mark as may be prescribed by the Senate, or

(b) has not attained the minimum mark prescribed as a sub-minimum for admission to another module.

#### **(ii) SPECIAL EXAMINATION**

A special examination is that examination which shall be awarded as follows:

##### **(a) Non-attendance at the examination**

A special examination may be awarded to a candidate who has been unable to attend an examination in a module by reason of illness, or for any other reason deemed sufficient by the Senate.

**(b) Attendance at examination**

A special examination may be awarded to a candidate who has attended but has been unable to complete an examination in a module by reason of illness, or for any other reason deemed sufficient by the Senate.

Note: The rules covering the award of Supplementary and Special examinations are detailed in the section for each class of degree.

**(iii) SENATE DISCRETIONARY EXAMINATION**

An examination awarded at the discretion of the Senate, is that examination awarded when a candidate has failed a module with a mark less than the minimum mark required for a supplementary examination but meets specific criteria as determined by the Senate for each faculty. Such examinations shall be awarded in exceptional circumstances only.

**GR26 Application for special examinations**

(i) An application for a special examination in terms of Rule GR25(ii)(a) shall be made on the prescribed form and lodged in the Faculty Office within twelve (12) days of the date of the examination concerned. Where applicable, the form shall be accompanied by a medical certificate confirming that the candidate was unfit or unable to write the examination. The Senate shall be advised by the Medical Advisory Board on the acceptability of the medical certificate.

(ii) Application for a special examination in terms of Rule GR25(ii)(b) shall be made on the prescribed form and lodged in the Faculty Office within three (3) days of the date of the examination concerned. Where applicable, the form shall be accompanied by a medical certificate confirming that the candidate was unfit or unable to complete the examination. The Senate shall be advised by the Medical Advisory Board on the acceptability of the medical certificate.

**GR27 Format of supplementary and special examinations**

The format and level of difficulty of a supplementary, special or Senate discretionary examination shall be identical to that of the original examination. The assessment in the module concerned shall include all other assignments, tutorials and tests in the same form as for the original assessment.

**GR28 Limitation on awarding of supplementary and special examinations**

(i) A special examination shall not be granted in respect of any supplementary or special examination awarded in terms of Rule GR25.

(ii) A supplementary examination shall not be granted in respect of any supplementary or special examination awarded in terms of Rule GR25.



**GR29 Examination results**

The results of any examination may be classified in such manner as may be prescribed by the Senate and the Council.

**GR30 Changes in rules**

The University may revise or add to its rules from time to time, and any such alteration or addition shall become binding upon the date of publication or upon such date as may be specified by the Senate and the Council.

**RULES FOR BACHELORS DEGREES**

**Note:** The rules for Undergraduate Diplomas and Certificates shall be as for Bachelors degrees, where relevant.

**BR1 Applicability**

Except as may be prescribed by the Senate in the rules of any particular faculty, the following rules, BR2 to BR13 inclusive, shall be applicable to every candidate for a Bachelors degree.

**BR2 Criteria for admission to study**

(i) Candidates for a first or primary degree for which the Matriculation Certificate is a prerequisite, shall produce evidence to the satisfaction of the Senate that they have obtained the Matriculation Certificate of the Matriculation Board or satisfied the conditions prescribed by the Board for exemption from the Matriculation Examination and obtained the Board's certificate to that effect or obtained a certificate of conditional exemption issued by the Board to candidates from countries outside the Republic of South Africa or satisfied the conditions of any alternative admission process approved by the Senate.

(ii) In addition to the requirements of (i) above, the minimum requirements for admission to study in any one faculty may include the requirement to have attained such minimum standard in a specified subject or subjects or such aggregate of points scored according to subjects passed in the Matriculation Examination, or in an examination recognised for the purpose by the Matriculation Board, or such other qualifications as may be prescribed. The selection process will be based on these requirements and may include academic ranking and other criteria as approved by the Senate and the Council.

**BR3 Curriculum**

A candidate shall complete such modules and comply with such other conditions as may be prescribed by the Senate and the rules of the faculty concerned.



**BR4 Periods of attendance**

Every candidate for a first or primary degree, shall be registered as a matriculated student, except as provided in Rule BR2, and have completed subsequent to the date of validity of the Matriculation Certificate or of the certificate of full exemption from the matriculation examination issued by the Matriculation Board, the minimum period of attendance prescribed by the rules of the relevant faculty.

**BR5 Recognition of Attendance**

For the purpose of Rules GR12 and BR4 the Senate may accept as part of the attendance of a student for award of a degree of Bachelor, periods of attendance as a registered matriculated student at any other university or institution or in any other faculty: provided that candidates shall not be awarded a degree of Bachelor unless -

(a) their periods of attendance are together not less than the complete period prescribed for such degree;

(b) they attended at the University -

(i) for a degree of Bachelor, the term of which is six or eight semesters, at least four semesters: provided that they have completed at least half of the total number of credits which, except with the approval of the Senate, shall include all those at the exit level prescribed for the degree; or

(ii) for a degree of Bachelor, the term of which is ten semesters, at least six semesters and which shall include the completion of all modules prescribed for the final six semesters of the curriculum.

**BR6 Recognition of examinations**

The Senate may accept examinations passed or certificates of proficiency completed in any module by a candidate in any faculty of the University or of any other university or institution recognised by the Senate for this purpose, as exempting the candidate from examination in such module or subject prescribed for a degree: provided that candidates shall not be awarded the degree of Bachelor unless the conditions laid down in Rule BR5 are satisfied.

**BR7 Obsolete modules**

A candidate with credit in a module which the Senate considers obsolete may be required to do additional work before being admitted to further study in the field or associated field. If the additional work includes completion of the current equivalent of the obsolete module, the student may be credited with only one of the modules for degree purposes.

**BR8 Supplementary examinations**

(i) Except as otherwise provided for in Rules BR8, BR9 and BR10, candidates who have failed the examination in any module shall not be permitted to present

themselves again for examination in that module before the next examination session.

(ii) Candidates who, in the ordinary examination, have failed the examination for any module with a minimum mark of 40% shall be permitted to write a supplementary examination as defined in Rule GR25(i)(a) in such module.

(iii) Candidates who, in the ordinary examination, have passed the examination for a module prescribed as a prerequisite with less than the minimum mark required for admission to another module shall, in order to improve the mark obtained, be permitted to write a supplementary examination in the prerequisite module as defined in Rule GR25(i)(b).

### **BR9 Special examinations**

Candidates who, in terms of Rule GR 25(ii), meet the requirements for a special examination in any module, may be awarded such examination. Application to write such special examination shall be made in accordance with the procedure in Rule GR26.

### **BR10 Senate discretionary examinations**

Candidates who in terms of Rule GR 25(iii) meet the requirements for a discretionary examination in any module, may be awarded such examination. Application is not made for such Senate discretionary examination.

### **BR11 Status of original examination result**

If an application for a special examination under Rule GR25(ii)(b) is approved, the examination result from the original examination shall be regarded as null and void. If such an application is not approved the original examination result shall stand, subject to GR25(i).

### **BR12 Condoned progression**

If a candidate has applied for a special examination it shall be competent for the board of a faculty, with the consent of the Senate, and in accordance with the rules of the faculty, to promote the candidate to a second or further module in a subject without such special examination, if it is satisfied that the candidate has attained a satisfactory standard of proficiency in previous work.

### **BR13 Award of degree *cum laude* and *summa cum laude***

A degree of Bachelor may awarded *cum laude* or *summa cum laude* in accordance with the rules of the faculty, as approved by the Senate.



## **RULES FOR HONOURS DEGREES**

**Note:** The rules for Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates shall be as for Honours degrees, where relevant.

### **HR1 Applicability**

Except as may be prescribed by the Senate in the rules of any particular faculty, the following rules, HR2 to HR18 inclusive, shall be applicable to every candidate for an Honours degree.

### **HR2 Criteria for admission to study**

(i) A candidate shall not be registered for the degree of Honours in any faculty unless the candidate has satisfied the requirements for the relevant prerequisite degree as specified in the faculty concerned or been admitted to the status of that degree in terms of Rule HR3 or attained a level of competence as defined in Rule GR7.

(ii) In addition to the requirements of (i) above, the minimum requirements for admission to study in any one faculty may include the requirement to have attained such minimum standard in a specified module or modules.

### **HR3 Admission of Graduates of other Universities to Status**

Graduates of any other recognised university (whether in the Republic of South Africa or elsewhere) may, for the purpose of proceeding to an Honours degree in any faculty of the University, be admitted by the Senate to a status in the University equivalent to that which they possess in their own university by virtue of any degree held by them.

### **HR4 Curriculum**

A candidate shall complete such modules and comply with such other conditions as may be prescribed by the Senate and the rules of the faculty concerned.

### **HR5 Periods of attendance**

Every candidate for a postgraduate Honours degree in any faculty shall attend an approved course of study as a registered student of the university for a period of at least two semesters after satisfying the requirements for the degree of Bachelor in the faculty concerned or after admission to the status of that degree in terms of Rule HR4.



**HR6 Recognition of Attendance**

For the purpose of Rules GR12 and HR5, the Senate requires all modules to be completed at the University. The Senate may consider periods of attendance at another university on a motivation submitted for that particular case.

**HR7 Recognition of examinations**

For the purpose of Rules GR16 and HR4, the Senate requires all examinations to be completed at the University. The Senate may consider specific applications for the recognition of examinations completed at another university.

**HR8 Obsolete modules**

A candidate with credit in a module which the Senate considers obsolete may be required to do additional work before being admitted to further study in the field or associated field. If the additional work includes completion of the current equivalent of the obsolete module, the student may be credited with only one of the modules for degree purposes.

**HR9 Supplementary examinations**

Except as otherwise provided for in Rules HR9, HR10 and HR11, candidates who have failed the examination in any module shall not be permitted to present themselves again for examination in that module.

Candidates who in the ordinary examination have failed the examination for any Honours level module with a minimum mark of 40% shall be permitted to write a supplementary examination in such module.

**HR10 Special examinations**

Candidates who, in terms of Rule GR25(ii), meet the requirements for a special examination in any module, with the exception of a dissertation, may be awarded such examination. Application to write such special examination shall be made in accordance with the procedure in Rule GR26.

**HR11 Senate discretionary examinations**

Candidates who in terms of Rule GR25(iii) meet the requirements for a discretionary examination in any module, may be awarded such examination. Application is not made for such Senate discretionary examination.

**HR12 Status of original examination result**

If an application for a special examination under Rule GR25(ii)(b) is approved, the

examination result from the original examination shall be regarded as null and void. If such an application is not approved the original examination result shall stand, subject to GR25(i).

### **HR13 Condoned progression**

If a candidate has applied for a special examination it shall be competent for the board of a faculty, with the consent of the Senate, and in accordance with the rules of the faculty, to promote the candidate to a second or further module in a subject without such special examination, if it is satisfied that the candidate has attained a satisfactory standard of proficiency in previous work.

### **HR14 Format of dissertation**

A dissertation submitted for the degree

- (i) must be satisfactory as regards form and literary presentation, and
- (ii) must include a full bibliography of the material, whether published or otherwise, used in its preparation.

### **HR15 Presentation**

Any dissertation must be presented for examination in accordance with the Guidelines for Presentation as approved by the Senate and the Council.

### **HR16 Re-examination of dissertation**

Applications to re-submit a dissertation which has been rejected will not be entertained, but the Senate may, on the advice of the examiners, invite a candidate to re-submit a dissertation in a revised or extended form.

### **HR17 Award of degree *cum laude***

An Honours degree may be awarded *cum laude* in accordance with the rules of the faculty as approved by the Senate.

### **HR18 Reproduction of dissertation**

In presenting a dissertation, the candidate shall be deemed by so doing to have granted the University the right to reproduce it in whole or in part, in any manner or format which the University may deem fit, for any person or institution requiring it for study and research, but not for commercial gain; provided that the University shall waive this right if the whole dissertation has been or is being published in a manner satisfactory to the University.



## **RULES FOR MASTERS DEGREES BY COURSEWORK**

**Note:** The rules for Advanced Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates shall be as for Masters degrees by coursework, where relevant.

### **CR1 Applicability**

Except as may be prescribed by the Senate in the rules of any particular faculty, the following rules, CR2 to CR22 inclusive, shall be applicable to every candidate for a Masters degree by coursework.

### **CR2 Criteria for admission to study**

A candidate shall not be registered for the degree of Masters by coursework in any faculty unless the candidate has satisfied the requirements for the relevant prerequisite degree as specified in the faculty concerned or been admitted to the status of that degree in terms of Rule CR3 or attained a level of competence as defined in Rule GR7.

### **CR3 Admission of Graduates of other Universities to Status**

Graduates of any other recognised university (whether in the Republic of South Africa or elsewhere) may, for the purpose of proceeding to a Masters degree by coursework in any faculty of the University, be admitted by the Senate, to a status in the University equivalent to that which they possess in their own university by virtue of any degree held by them.

### **CR4 Proposed subject of study**

Before registration for the dissertation, all intending candidates for the degree shall submit for the approval of the Senate a statement of the subject of special study which they propose to pursue. The Senate may, at its discretion, decline to approve such subject if

- (i) in its opinion, it is unsuitable in itself, or
- (ii) it cannot profitably be studied or pursued under the supervision of the University, or
- (iii) the conditions under which the candidates propose to work are unsatisfactory, or
- (iv) it is considered to be unethical to pursue such research

### **CR5 Curriculum**

- (i) A candidate shall be required to pursue an approved module of research or special study on some subject falling within the scope of the studies represented in the University.

- (ii) Such research shall comprise between 25% and 50% of the total credits for the degree.
- (iii) A candidate shall also complete such other modules and comply with such other conditions as may be prescribed by the Senate and the rules of the faculty concerned.

### **CR6 Supervision**

The Senate shall appoint one or more supervisors to advise a candidate whose subject of special study or research has been approved, and the candidate shall be required to work in such association with the supervisor or supervisors as the Senate may direct. Such supervisors must be qualified at an appropriate level to conduct the supervision.

### **CR7 Periods of attendance**

A candidate for the degree of Master by coursework in any faculty shall be registered as a student of the University for a minimum period of two semesters, except that where a candidate holds a three year degree of Bachelor, the minimum period shall be four semesters, after satisfying the academic requirements for admission to study towards the degree of Master in terms of the rules of the faculty concerned or after admission to the status of that degree in terms of Rule CR3.

### **CR8 Recognition of Attendance**

For the purpose of Rules GR12 and CR7, the Senate may accept as part of the attendance of a student for admission to a degree of Masters by coursework periods of attendance as a registered graduated student at any other university or institution or in any other faculty: provided that candidates shall not be admitted to the degree of Master unless

- (i) their periods of attendance are together not less than the complete period prescribed for admission to such degree, and
- (ii) the dissertation is completed at the University.

### **CR9 Recognition of examinations**

The Senate may accept examinations passed or certificates of proficiency completed in any module by a candidate in any faculty of the University or of any other university or institution recognised by the Senate for this purpose, as exempting the candidate from examination in such module or subject prescribed for a degree: provided that

- (i) with the exception of certain approved medical coursework degrees, no more than 50% of the required Coursework credits for the Masters degree are transferred from a previous qualification; and
- (ii) at least 80% of the total number of credits required for the degree are at Masters level and the remainder at Honours level; and
- (iii) candidates shall not be admitted to the degree of Master unless the conditions laid down in Rules CR7 and CR8 are satisfied.



**CR10 Obsolete modules**

A candidate with credit in a module which the Senate considers obsolete may be required to do additional work before being admitted to further study in the field or associated field. If the additional work includes completion of the current equivalent of the obsolete module, the student may be credited with only one of the modules for degree purposes.

**CR11 Supplementary examinations**

- (i) There shall be no supplementary examinations in Masters level modules, with the exception of the College of Medicine examinations.
- (ii) Candidates shall not attempt a module more than twice.
- (iii) Faculties may write progression rules which shall specify :
  - (a) the number of modules which may be failed; and
  - (b) the number of modules which may be repeated

**CR12 Special examinations**

Candidates who, in terms of Rule GR25(ii), meet the requirements for a special examination in any module, with the exception of the dissertation, may be awarded such examination. Application to write such special examination shall be made in accordance with the procedure in Rule GR26.

**CR13 Senate discretionary examinations**

Candidates who in terms of Rule GR25(iii) meet the requirements for a discretionary examination in any module, may be awarded such examination. Application is not made for such Senate discretionary examination.

**CR14 Progression**

Candidates who after six semesters have not completed the requirements for the degree may be refused permission to renew their registration.

**CR15 Status of original examination result**

If an application for a special examination under Rule GR25(ii)(b) is approved, the examination result from the original examination shall be regarded as null and void. If such an application is not approved the original examination result shall stand.

**CR16 Format of dissertation**

A dissertation submitted for the degree

- (i) must be satisfactory as regards form and literary presentation, and
- (ii) must include a full bibliography of the material, whether published or otherwise, used in its preparation.

**CR17 Presentation**

Any dissertation must be presented for examination in accordance with the Guidelines for Presentation as approved by the Senate and the Council.

**CR18 Language of presentation**

Any dissertation presented shall contain an abstract in English not exceeding 350 words. If the dissertation is in a language other than English, it must in addition be accompanied by an abstract in the language of the dissertation.

**CR19 Supervisor's report**

When a dissertation is submitted, the supervisor or supervisors shall furnish a report on the conduct of the candidate's work, but not an evaluation of the quality of the dissertation.

**CR20 Re-examination of dissertation**

Applications to re-submit a dissertation which has been rejected will not be entertained, but the Senate may, on the advice of the examiners, invite a candidate to re-submit a dissertation in a revised or extended form.

**CR21 Award of degree cum laude**

- (i) The degree shall be awarded *cum laude* if:
  - (a) the candidate produces a particularly outstanding dissertation and the examiners recommend to the faculty board that the degree be awarded *cum laude*; and
  - (b) the candidate obtains a weighted average of 75% or more in the coursework component of the degree.
- (ii) The degree may be awarded *cum laude* if:
  - (a) the candidate produces a particularly outstanding dissertation and the examiners recommend to the faculty board that the degree be awarded *cum laude*; and
  - (b) the candidate obtains a weighted average of 70 - 74% in the coursework component of the degree.

**CR22 Reproduction of dissertation**

In presenting a dissertation, the candidate shall be deemed by so doing to have granted the University the right to reproduce it in whole or in part, in any manner or format which the University may deem fit, for any person or institution requiring it for study and research, but not for commercial gain; provided that the University shall waive this right if the whole dissertation has been or is being published in a manner satisfactory to the University.



## **RULES FOR MASTERS DEGREES BY RESEARCH**

### **MR1 Applicability**

Except as may be prescribed by the Senate in the rules of any particular faculty, the following rules, MR2 to MR17 inclusive, shall be applicable to every candidate for a Masters degree by research.

### **MR2 Criteria for admission to study**

A candidate shall not be registered for the degree of Masters by research in any faculty unless the candidate has satisfied the requirements for the degree as specified in the faculty rules or has been admitted to the status of that degree under rule MR3 or attained a level of competence as defined in Rule GR7.

### **MR3 Admission of graduates of other universities to status**

Graduates of any other recognised university (whether in the Republic of South Africa or elsewhere) may, for the purpose of proceeding to a Masters degree by research in any faculty of the University, be admitted by the Senate, to a status in the University equivalent to that which they possess in their own university by virtue of any degree held by them.

### **MR4 Proposed subject of study**

Before registration, all intending candidates for the degree shall submit for the approval of the Senate a statement of the subject of study which they propose to pursue. The Senate may, at its discretion, decline to approve such subject if

- (i) in its opinion, it is unsuitable in itself, or
- (ii) it cannot profitably be studied or pursued under the supervision of the University, or
- (iii) the conditions under which the candidates propose to work are unsatisfactory, or
- (iv) it is considered to be unethical to pursue such research.

### **MR5 Curriculum**

- (i) A candidate for the degree of Master by research shall be required to pursue an approved programme of research or special study on some subject falling within the scope of the studies represented in the University.
- (ii) A candidate shall also comply with such other conditions as may be prescribed by the Senate and the rules of the faculty concerned.



**MR6 Period of attendance**

A candidate for the degree of Master by research in any faculty shall be registered as a student of the University for a minimum period of two semesters, except that when a candidate holds a three year degree of Bachelor, the minimum period shall be four semesters, after satisfying the academic requirements for admission to study towards the degree of Master in terms of the rules of the faculty concerned or after admission to the status of that degree in terms of Rule MR3.

**MR7 Progression**

- (i) Candidates who after six semesters have not completed the requirements for the degree may be refused permission to renew their registration.
- (ii) Candidates may request suspension of registration for a maximum of four semesters which, if granted, will not be included in the six semesters referred to in Rule MR7(i).

**MR8 Supervision**

The Senate shall appoint one or more supervisors to advise a candidate whose subject of research has been approved, and the candidate shall be required to work in such association with the supervisor or supervisors as the Senate may direct. Such supervisors must be qualified at an appropriate level to conduct the supervision.

**MR9 Intention to submit**

- (i) Candidates for the degree shall be required to submit a dissertation embodying the results of their research.
- (ii) At least three months before the dissertation is to be presented, a candidate shall give notice, in writing, to the Dean of the faculty concerned. A candidate shall submit at the same time the proposed title and an outline of the plan and general scope of the work. In the event of a candidate failing to submit the dissertation for examination within six months the notice of intention to submit will lapse and a further notice of intention shall be submitted.

**MR10 Format of dissertation**

A dissertation submitted for the degree

- (i) must be satisfactory as regards form and literary presentation, and
- (ii) must include a full bibliography of the material, whether published or otherwise, used in its preparation.

**MR11 Presentation**

A dissertation is to be presented for examination in accordance with the Guidelines for Presentation as approved by the Senate and the Council.

**MR12 Language of presentation**

Every dissertation presented shall contain an abstract in English not exceeding 350 words. If the dissertation is in a language other than English, it must in addition be accompanied by an abstract in the language of the dissertation.

**MR13 Supervisor's report**

When the dissertation is submitted, the supervisor or supervisors shall furnish a report on the conduct of the candidate's work, but not an evaluation of the quality of the dissertation.

**MR14 Examination**

The Senate shall appoint for each dissertation two examiners, at least one of whom shall be external to the University.

**MR15 Re-examination of dissertation**

Applications to re-submit a dissertation which has been rejected will not be entertained, but the Senate may, on the advice of the examiners, invite a candidate to re-submit a dissertation in a revised or extended form.

**MR16 Award of degree *cum laude***

- (i) On the recommendation of the examiners, the degree may be awarded *cum laude*.
- (ii) Where the faculty requires a mark for a dissertation, that mark shall be 75% or above.

**MR17 Reproduction of dissertation**

In presenting a dissertation, the candidate shall be deemed by so doing to have granted the University the right to reproduce it in whole or in part, in any manner or format which the University may deem fit, for any person or institution requiring it for study and research but not for commercial gain; provided that the University shall waive this right if the whole dissertation has been or is being published in a manner satisfactory to the University.



## **RULES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

### **DR1 Applicability**

Except as may be prescribed by the Senate in the rules of any particular faculty, the following rules, DR2 to DR17 inclusive, shall be applicable to every candidate for a Doctoral degree by research.

### **DR2 Criteria for admission to study**

A candidate shall not be registered for the degree of Doctor in any faculty unless the candidate has satisfied the requirements for the relevant degree as specified in the faculty rules or has been admitted to the status of that degree under rule DR3 or attained a level of competence as defined in Rule GR7.

### **DR3 Admission of graduates of other universities to status**

Graduates of any other recognised university (whether in the Republic of South Africa or elsewhere) may, for the purpose of proceeding to a Doctor of Philosophy in any faculty of the University, be admitted by the Senate, to a status in the University equivalent to that which they possess in their own university by virtue of any degree held by them.

### **DR4 Proposed subject of study**

Before registration, all intending candidates for the degree shall submit for the approval of the Senate a statement of the subject of research which they propose to pursue. The Senate may, at its discretion, decline to approve such subject if

- (i) in its opinion, it is unsuitable in itself, or
- (ii) it cannot profitably be studied or pursued under the supervision of the University, or
- (iii) the conditions under which the candidates propose to work are unsatisfactory, or
- (iv) it is considered to be unethical to pursue such research.

### **DR5 Curriculum**

- (i) A candidate for the degree of Doctor shall be required to pursue an approved programme of research or special study on some subject falling within the scope of the studies represented in the University.
- (ii) Such programme of study shall make a distinct contribution to the knowledge or understanding of the subject and afford evidence of originality shown either by the discovery of new facts or by the exercise of independent critical power.

### **DR6 Period of attendance**

A candidate for the degree of Doctor in any faculty shall be registered as a student of the University for a minimum period of four semesters, after satisfying the academic



requirements for admission to study towards the degree of Doctor in terms of the rules of the faculty concerned.

**DR7 Progression**

- (i) Candidates who after eight semesters have not completed the requirements for the degree may be refused permission to renew their registration.
- (ii) Candidates may request suspension of registration for a maximum of four semesters which, if granted, will not be included in the eight semesters referred to in Rule DR7(i).

**DR8 Supervision**

The Senate shall appoint one or more supervisors to advise a candidate whose subject of research has been approved, and the candidate shall be required to work in such association with the supervisor or supervisors as the Senate may direct. Such supervisors must be qualified at an appropriate level to conduct the supervision.

**DR9 Intention to submit**

- (i) Candidates for the degree shall be required to submit a thesis embodying the results of their research.
- (ii) At least three months before the thesis is to be presented, a candidate shall give notice, in writing, to the Dean of the faculty concerned. A candidate shall submit at the same time the proposed title and an outline of the plan and general scope of the work. In the event of a candidate failing to submit the dissertation for examination within six months the notice of intention to submit will lapse and a further notice of intention shall be submitted.

**DR10 Format of thesis**

A thesis submitted for the degree

- (i) must be satisfactory as regards form and literary presentation, and
- (ii) must include a full bibliography of the material, whether published or otherwise, used in its preparation.

**DR11 Presentation**

A thesis is to be presented for examination in accordance with the Guidelines for Presentation as approved by the Senate and the Council.

**DR12 Language of presentation**

Every thesis presented shall contain an abstract in English not exceeding 350 words. If the thesis is in a language other than English, it must in addition be accompanied by an abstract in the language of the thesis.

**DR13 Supervisor's report**

When the thesis is submitted, the supervisor or supervisors shall furnish a report on the conduct of the candidate's work, but not an evaluation of the quality of the thesis.

**DR14 Examination**

The Senate shall appoint for each thesis three examiners, at least two of whom shall be external to the University.

**DR15 Re-examination of thesis**

Applications to re-submit a thesis which has been rejected will not be entertained, but the Senate may, on the advice of the examiners, invite a candidate to re-submit a thesis in a revised or extended form.

**DR16 Defence of thesis**

Senate may require a candidate to defend a thesis.

**DR17 Reproduction of thesis**

In presenting a thesis, the candidate shall be deemed by so doing to have granted the University the right to reproduce it in whole or in part, in any manner or format which the University may deem fit, for any person or institution requiring it for study and research but not for commercial gain; provided that the University shall waive this right if the whole thesis has been or is being published in a manner satisfactory to the University.

# VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT – UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

## Preamble

The creation of a new institution is an exciting opportunity to bring into being a genuinely South African university, with a new culture and form, designed to meet the challenges of serving the country and the region in innovative and effective ways. This socially responsive institution will be a world-class university, and an active global player while still serving the KwaZulu-Natal and SADC regions.

## Vision

To be the premier university of African scholarship.

## Mission

A truly South African university that is academically excellent, innovative in research, critically engaged with society and demographically representative, redressing the disadvantages, inequities and imbalances of the past.

## Principles and Core Values

The University commits itself to the principles and values enshrined in the constitution of the Republic of South African and articulated in the preamble to the Higher Education Act of 1997 (as amended).

## Goals

The goals of the University are to:

- Promote access to learning that will expand educational and employment opportunities for the historically disadvantaged, and support social transformation and redress.
- Create and develop an enabling environment for all learners and scholars to pursue their studies in accordance with the principles of academic freedom.
- Advance knowledge and culture through globally competitive teaching, learning, scholarship and research, innovation and scientific investigation.
- Foster a capacity for independent critical thinking, free engagement in fundamental discovery and a reappraisal and extension of traditional views of the world amongst students and staff.
- Support and contribute, across the academic enterprise, to national and regional development, and the welfare and upliftment of the wider community.
- Provide holistic education which promotes an awareness of social responsibility and sound ethical practice in a diverse society.
- Promote and foster tolerance and respect for multilingualism, diverse cultures and social values.
- Promote excellence in teaching and learning through creative and innovative curriculum design and development, pedagogical strategies and assessment practices in accordance with sound quality assurance principles.
- Strengthen the institution through local and international collaboration, exchanges and partnerships with the private sector and higher education institutions in teaching, research and development enterprises.
- Conserve the physical environment, and foster a culture of responsible, ethical, sustainable use of natural resources.
- Increase opportunities for lifelong learning in response to the educational, social, political, scientific and economic challenges of our time.
- Equip graduates to serve as future leaders of the nation.
- Ensure effective governance through democratic representation, accountability, and transparency.
- Promote the social and personal well-being of staff and students, and foster the realization of their full human potential.

*The University views this vision and mission statement as a reflection of its core values and commitments. In carrying out its various activities, the University seeks to contribute to the building of a just South African society.*



