



Communication and Marketing Department
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UCT clarifies reports on the non-admission of learner who obtained nine distinctions

The University of Cape Town notes reports that an application for admission into our Faculty of Health Sciences by a student who obtained nine distinctions has not been successful.

These reports, however, do not provide reasons behind the student not being accepted.

The student was not admitted into the programme because the number of points that he scored was 756 and the required number of points for his category (Band B) was 865.

In terms of the UCT admission system, applicants are considered in three bands:

- Band A (unweighted) gives guaranteed offers to applicants who meet the very high cut-off point of 880 out of 1000, with a minimum FPS of 810 points.
- Band B is weighted by a disadvantage factor. The disadvantage factor is determined by an applicant's response to a set of questions when he/she applies, such as a parent's classification under apartheid, a family's dependence on a social grant, the level of education of parents, and the relative disadvantage of the school that the applicant attended, based on – amongst others – the school's classification in a national database of schools that determines the level of poverty of the area in which the school is situated. Applicants with no disadvantage factors compete with applicants with disadvantage factors in this band. The weighted cut-off point in this band is 865 out of 1000.
- In Band C we admit Black and Coloured applicants if there were too few such applicants in the other bands to make up our desired class composition. The lowest FPS for Band C is 685.

We look at three components when considering an application:

- National Senior Certificate (NSC) results (% for English, Maths, Physical Science and the next three best subjects excluding Life Orientation added together, and totalling 600);
- National Benchmark Test (NBT) results (a score out of 300); and
- A Personal Report (a score out of 100).

We received more than 5 600 applications for admission to MBChB this year. Our target intake is 225. (Intake is limited by capacity on the clinical teaching platform, which is governed by the Western Cape Department of Health.)

Of the 225 places, about 200 go to school-leavers; the rest go to applicants already studying at tertiary level or applicants with tertiary qualifications.

ENDS

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