POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN COMMUNITY AND GENERAL PAEDIATRICS

[Diploma code: MG027. Plan code: MG027PED16]

[Note: This programme will be offered only if there are a sufficient number of applicants who meet the entrance criteria].

Conveners: Assoc Prof M Hendricks and Assoc Prof A Westwood (Department of Paediatrics and Child Health)

Admission requirements

FGP1  (a) To be considered for admission to this programme, candidates shall have:
   (i) An undergraduate medical degree from this University or another university recognised by the Senate for this purpose.
   (ii) Registration as a medical practitioner with the Health Professions Council of South Africa.
   (iii) Fluency in English, both written and spoken.
   (iv) Plans to pursue a career in community and general paediatrics.
   (v) Computer access and internet connectivity.

   (b) In addition to meeting the minimum requirements above, preference will be given to:
   (i) Registered paediatric specialists who work at a secondary level.
   (ii) Registered medical officers who have at least two years’ experience in the field of paediatrics and child health at a regional level.
   (iii) Doctors in the above categories who are placed at an appropriate site (i.e. at the secondary or regional level of care).
   (iv) Doctors who are members of health district clinical specialist teams.

Duration of programme

FGP2  A student must be registered for the Diploma for at least two years of part-time study. The maximum registration period is four years. Retrospective registration is not allowed. It may be possible to register for a minimum of two courses as an occasional student.

Curriculum

FGP3  The curriculum is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>NQF Credits</th>
<th>HEQSF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PED4002F</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>PED4003F</td>
<td>Organisation &amp; Management in Child Healthcare</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>PED4004S</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>PED4005S</td>
<td>Child Health Promotion, Policies &amp; Programmes</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>PED4006F</td>
<td>Optimising Clinical Care for Long-term Health Conditions</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>PED4007W</td>
<td>Experiential Learning</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>PED4008F</td>
<td>Advocacy in Child Health</td>
<td>10</td>
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*Plus a choice of any one of the following electives:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PED4009S</td>
<td>Health Information Systems</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PED4010S</td>
<td>Communication, Education &amp; Training</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Total NQF credits: 120*

Assessment, progression and readmission

[Note: These rules must be read in conjunction with the General Rules in the front section of this Handbook].

FDA4.1  Students are assessed by means of unit submissions, portfolio reports, assignments and attendance of lectures during face-to-face contact sessions. Assessments will be of a practical and written nature.

FDA4.2  Students are required to attend at least 60% of lectures and to communicate online with their tutors regarding unit submissions. Students are required to submit all portfolio reports and assignments before the final mark for the relevant course will be released. Should this not be done by the due date, the student will not be allowed to undertake the next course module.

FDA4.3  Successful completion of all courses and an approved portfolio reflecting experiential learning and submitted by the due date are required for successful completion of the diploma.

FDA4.4  The final assessment mark will comprise the following components and assessment weightings: course assignments 70%, portfolio reports 20%, unit submissions 5% and attendance of lectures 5%.

FDA4.5  Students who obtain less than 50% for an assignment or portfolio report will be permitted to repeat it. Students need to obtain a minimum of 50% in individual courses and the overall assessment to pass the Diploma.

Courses for Postgraduate Diploma in Community and General Paediatrics:

PED4002F  EPIDEMIOLOGY

NQF credits: 14 at HEQSF level 8
Conveners: Prof G Swingler, Dr D le Roux and Dr K Reichmuth
Course entry requirements: None.
Course outline: The course introduces the main outlines in epidemiology for good clinical practice and management in maternal and child
health. Content includes the application of epidemiology to disease causation, prevention and treatment. The course introduces the student to the different types of epidemiological studies; sampling design and methods; data measurement and collection and disease surveillance. It provides a foundation in research methods which will enable students to critically evaluate and undertake health systems research and audits at the district and regional levels.

**DP requirements**: Students need to attend a minimum of 60% of all contact sessions. All assignments must be submitted by due dates.

**Assessment**: The course assignment is weighted as 10% of the final mark. Other activities in this module attributable to unit submissions and attendance of lectures contribute to the 10% of the final mark attributable to unit submissions, and attendance of lectures.

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**PED4003F ORGANISATION & MANAGEMENT IN CHILD HEALTHCARE**

**NQF credits**: 14 at HEQSF level 8
**Conveners**: Assoc Prof M Hendricks, Dr A Hawkridge, Dr M Shung King

**Course outline**: This course explores the organisation of child health services, programmes and support systems at the different levels of care. It focuses on the role of the paediatrician and medical practitioner in co-ordinating and managing child health services and programmes at the primary and secondary levels of care. The key aspects covered in the course include the main child health components within the district health system (DHS), decentralisation within the DHS, a team approach to addressing child health priorities within the district, inter-sectoral links and referral systems. It explores resource allocation and management and monitoring and evaluation of child health programmes. Students are also introduced to economic concepts, financial planning and management, budgeting and basic accounting.

**DP requirements**: Students need to attend a minimum of 60% of all contact sessions. All assignments must be submitted by due dates.

**Assessment**: The course assignment is weighted as 10% of the final mark. Other activities in this module attributable to unit submissions and attendance of lectures contribute to the 10% of the final mark.

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**PED4004S BIOSTATISTICS**

**NQF credits**: 12 at HEQSF level 8
**Conveners**: DR J Ramjith and Dr R Muliowa

**Course entry requirements**: None.

**Course outline**: The course aims to introduce students to the basic statistical concepts that will enable them to understand and interpret statistical concepts and to apply this to published research. Using practical examples and case studies, students are introduced to the different types of variables, descriptive statistics, population parameters, sample size estimations and survival analysis. They are required to perform elementary analyses using STATA statistical software. They are required to summarise, correctly interpret and present in an appropriate format data that has been statistically analysed; to analyse and apply statistical concepts to population-based data using appropriate software; and interpret, summarise and present statistical data.

**DP requirements**: Students need to attend a minimum of 60% of all contact sessions. All assignments must be submitted by due dates.

**Assessment**: The course assignment is weighted as 10% of the final mark. Other activities in this module attributable to unit submissions and attendance of lectures contribute to the 10% of the final mark.

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**PED4005S CHILD HEALTH PROMOTION, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES**

**NQF credits**: 14 at HEQSF level 8
**Conveners**: Prof D Sanders and Dr M Kroon

**Course entry requirements**: None.

**Course outline**: This course enables students to know and critically evaluate current child health policies and legislation. It explores the policy and law making processes. Students are provided with an approach to and a critical understanding of child health policy analysis and the methodologies used in its evaluation. The course explores how the priority conditions affecting children can be addressed through implementation and support for existing policies and programmes; especially at the district level. The course also examines health promotion approaches and strategies and their links to child health programmes that are implemented at the district and regional levels.

**DP requirements**: Students need to attend a minimum of 60% of all contact sessions. All assignments must be submitted by due dates.

**Assessment**: The course assignment is weighted as 10% of the final mark. Other activities in this module attributable to unit submissions and attendance of lectures contribute to the 10% of the final mark.

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**PED4006F OPTIMISING CLINICAL CARE FOR LONG-TERM HEALTH CONDITIONS**

**NQF credits**: 16 at HEQSF level 9
**Conveners**: Assoc Prof A Westwood

**Course entry requirements**: None.

**Course outline**: The course explores approaches to classification of long-term health conditions and paradigms for continuing clinical care over time. Students are introduced to the concepts of evidence-based practice as applied to priority morbidity and mortality conditions that affect populations of children. They are provided with an approach to providing reliable sources of evidence, interpreting and applying this to practical settings. It is envisaged that students will develop a critical understanding of the development of guidelines and their implementation as well as how optimally to configure health services with long-term health conditions such as asthma, disabilities, and HIV/AIDS as the primary and secondary levels of care.

**DP requirements**: Students need to attend a minimum of 60% of all contact sessions. All assignments must be submitted by due dates.

**Assessment**: The course assignment is weighted as 10% of the final mark. Other activities in this module attributable to unit submissions and attendance of lectures contribute to the 10% of the final mark.

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**PED4007W EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

**NQF credits**: 30 at HEQSF level 8
**Conveners**: Assoc Prof M Hendricks and Assoc Prof A Westwood

**Course entry requirements**: None.

**Course outline**: This course runs over the entire two year period. It focuses on the practical application of the theoretical learning gained to the context of the student’s work environment. It evaluates current child health practices through primary research, which will include small projects which students undertake in their work environment. It also focuses on the practical implementation of clinical guidelines, policies and programmes in both the clinical and public health context. Students are expected to engage in reflective study on the facilitating factors and barriers to implementing interventions aimed at improving child health status within their work environment.
**DP requirements:** Students need to submit two portfolio reports at the end of the first year.

**Assessment:** Students are required to complete four portfolio reports, two per year, with each weighted at 5% of the final mark.

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**PED4008F ADVOCACY IN CHILD HEALTH**

**NQF credits:** 10 at HEQSF level 9  
**Convener:** Ms L Lake and Ms P Proudlock  
**Course entry requirements:** None.

**Course outline:** This course introduces the main aspects relating to children’s rights and introduces the learner to a rights-based approach to child health. It examines the main principles of an effective advocacy strategy that need to be applied in realising children’s rights. Students are introduced to the advocacy process and provided with practical examples of where an advocacy strategy was successfully applied. The course also aims to provide students with the knowledge and understanding of ethical principles and legislation guiding the provision of child healthcare.

**DP requirements:** Students need to attend a minimum of 60% of all contact sessions. All assignments must be submitted by due dates.

**Assessment:** The course assignment is weighted as 10% of the final mark. Other activities in this module attributable to unit submissions and attendance of lectures contribute to the 10% of the final mark.

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**PED4009S HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**NQF credits:** 10 at HEQSF level 9  
**Convener:** Assoc Prof A Westwood and Dr N McKerrow  
**Course entry requirements:** None.

**Course outline:** The course introduces essential information needed for planning and monitoring child health interventions at the primary and secondary levels. It looks at existing data sources and provides a critical approach to the interpretation of data and child health indicators. Students are exposed to the advantages and disadvantages of the various data collection tools and systems. The course also explores how data could be used to improve child health services and programmes at the district and regional levels.

**DP requirements:** Students need to attend a minimum of 60% of all contact sessions. All assignments must be submitted by due dates.

**Assessment:** The course assignment is weighted as 10% of the final mark. Other activities in this module attributable to unit submissions and attendance of lectures contribute to the 10% of the final mark.

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**PED4010S COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**NQF credits:** 10 at HEQSF level 9  
**Convener:** Ms J Shea, Dr A Spitaels  
**Course entry requirements:** None.

**Course outline:** This course is practical and explores the principles of effective verbal and written communication. Students are provided with the necessary skills in presenting, writing and publishing health information relevant to their work. The course also explores the principles of adult education and its application to in-service training of health workers in child health. Students are introduced to educational methods and effective facilitation of educational initiatives.

**DP requirements:** Students need to attend a minimum of 60% of all contact sessions. All assignments must be submitted by due dates.

**Assessment:** The course assignment is weighted as 10% of the final mark. Other activities in this module attributable to unit submissions and attendance of lectures contribute to the 10% of the final mark.