

University NBT requirements for admission in 2024



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A note from our Head of Education, Crispian Lees

Many of you will be wondering about the NBTs this year and starting to ask the many natural questions that you need to for your own unique context. Do I need to write the NBTs, when should I write, where should I write. These are all important questions that you need to answer so that you can plan the steps you need to take to launch you into your next phase beyond High School. It is, indeed, an exciting time but it can be daunting, too, with lots to navigate. That is why we put this summary together for you to help you on your way.

Read on for a brief update on the salient, need-to-know points related to NBT requirements for 2024 university admission.

Answering some frequently asked questions

Are the NBT tests running this year?

Yes, the National Benchmark Tests Project of the Centre for Educational Assessments will publish the test dates on the 1st of April 2023.

When are the tests?

The testing schedule typically presents 25 opportunities to take the tests during the course of the year, spanning from the middle of May to the first week of January next year. Tests are typically run every weekend (with the exception of some weekends) over that date range.

How will the tests be written?

The schedule enables learners to take the tests either in-person or online. Registrations for the tests open on 3 April 2023 via nbt.ac.za.

Should I write the test online or in-person?

As indicated by the administering organization, the Centre for Educational Assessments at nbt.ac.za:

"You should choose the test form that suits you the best. The tests are equilibrated so there is no difference in writing the online or pencil and paper form of the NBT. The online test is convenient as you would normally write the test at home, but you will need a computer that meets the minimum specification and have stable internet access and sufficient bandwidth or data. Or you may prefer to write in a test venue using the pencil and paper form of the NBT, in which case you should book your test in a venue closest to you on a date that suits you."

A significant factor to consider when deciding to write in-person or online is how you might be impacted during load shedding. If your power and connectivity is negatively affected during loadshedding, then you should strongly consider writing in-person instead.

For more helpful Frequently Asked Questions, visit the [FAQ section](#) at nbt.ac.za.

Can I write the tests more than once?

While you are allowed to write the tests more than once, most Universities will only consider the results from your first attempt. It is very important that you do your best on your first attempt.

Which universities will be using the NBTs for admission to study in 2024?

This is always a tricky question to answer, especially since requirements vary between universities and then, further to that, requirements vary between faculties within universities. To add an additional layer of complexity, the requirements for the NBTs also shift from year to year as universities refine their admissions criteria. As it stands, with many Universities having released their undergraduate guidelines for 2024 enrolment, the requirements appear to be largely unchanged when compared with last year.

"In order to understand whether or not you need to write the NBTs, do your research for your first, second and third choice degree that you are applying to at all the universities that you are applying towards. If any of these require the NBTs, then you will need to write the NBTs. Work hard to give yourself the best chance of being admitted for your first choice university and degree but be prepared for the fact that you may not be."

In terms of understanding whether or not a university requires the NBTs for admission, the official university document that will indicate this is a university **Undergraduate Prospectus** or **Undergraduate Guide** for the year of admission (the year in which you would do your first year of study). So, for clarity, in 2023, you should look for the 2024 Undergraduate Prospectus or the 2024 Undergraduate Guide.

To help you on your way, please see a list of the major universities on the following page along with a summary of published information relating to NBTs for admission in 2024. We have also provided links to the undergraduate prospectuses where possible. Some universities have yet to publish their 2024 undergraduate prospectus.

Note: Some Universities not only require the NBT but they also require it to be written by a certain date. Be sure to understand your requirements entirely.

University NBT requirements overview

Universities	NBT required	Faculties requiring NBTs	Source of information
University of Cape Town (UCT)	Yes, for most programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculties of Humanities and Law - require AQL test only • Faculties of Commerce, Health Sciences and Science (<i>excluding</i> Advanced Diploma in Cosmetic Formulation Science) - require both AQL and MAT test • Engineering and the built environment - NBTs are not required • Applicants to Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy who did <i>Mathematical Literacy</i> are advised to <u>not</u> write NBT Mathematics. (Their applications will be considered individually, on merit.) • Applicants to the Higher Certificate in Disability Practice - only AQL. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Benchmark Tests University of Cape Town (uct.ac.za) • Undergraduate prospectus University of Cape Town (uct.ac.za)
University of the Witwatersrand (WITS)	Yes, for certain programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculties of Science and Health Sciences - require NBTs (AQL and MAT) • Graduate Entry Medical Programme (GEMP) - no NBTs required • Certain degrees in the Faculty of Humanities (Speech-language pathology, Audiology, Social Work) - require NBTs (both AQL and MAT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide for undergraduates - Wits University
Stellenbosch University (SU)	Yes, for certain programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Law requires NBTs: LLB (4 year) and BA Law require AQL only, BCom Law and BAccLLB require both AQL and MAT • Applicants to the School of Tomorrow - require NBT • Other faculties (eg: Science and Health Science) - no NBTs required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions NBTs 2024 Admission requirements for undergraduate programmes
University of the Free State	Yes, for most programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and Management Sciences - require NBT (MAT and AQL) <i>*except</i> BAAdmin (only AQL) • Faculty of Education - all require NBT (only AQL) • Faculty of Health Sciences - all require NBT (MAT and AQL) <i>*except</i> BSportCoach (only AQL) • Faculty of Law - require NBTs (only AQL) • Faculty Natural and Agricultural Sciences - all require both NBTs (AQL and MAT) <i>*except</i> Bachelor of Sustainable Food Systems and Development (only AQL); Construction Management and Quantity Surveying • Faculty of Humanities - require NBT (only AQL) <i>*except</i> HCert (music performance) and Dip (music) • Faculty of theology and religion - only Bachelor of Divinity requires NBT (only AQL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of the Free State Prospectus 2024

University NBT requirements overview continued

Universities	NBT required	Faculties requiring NBTs	Source of information
Rhodes University	Yes, for all programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All first year applicants are encouraged to write AQL test The MAT test should be written by those applying to Science, Pharmacy or Commerce faculty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rhodes university entry Requirements
University of the Western Cape (UWC)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants with an endorsed National Senior Certificate who do not meet UWC's admission requirements can be admitted subject to faculty-specific requirements for the NBTs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of the Western Cape admissions requirements
University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UKZN 2023 Undergraduate Prospectus <p>* 2024 undergraduate prospectus, yet to be released</p>
North-West University (NWU)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWU undergraduate studies admission requirements
University of Johannesburg (UJ)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners who have not written the National Senior Certificate (NSC), but fall in the categories listed below will be referred to the faculties for faculty-specific selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACE School of Tomorrow NCV, NASCA, SC(a) N3/N4/N5/N6 results Any other final school-leaving certificates not aforementioned. PsyCaD evaluation and NBT results may be required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Johannesburg undergraduate admission aid <p>* 2024 undergraduate prospectus, yet to be released but university indicate that requirements would not be changing as compared to last year.</p>
University of Pretoria (UP)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UP admission Information

Unsure of what you are going to do after Matric? Consider the following as it relates to the NBT...



- Your results are valid for 2 years.
- If any of your University applications require it, you need to still write. It is unwise to give consideration only to your first choice.
- If you want to transfer course or university, or both, in 2024 or beyond you may need an NBT score to do so.
- You will likely get the best results if you prepare to write in your Grade 12 year.
- Some bursary and scholarship programs require the NBTs to be written.



All of the best as you navigate your NBTs in 2023!

Crispian Lees
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Advantage Learn

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Prepare for your NBTs



Want to learn more about the NBTs including information about where to book, what to expect on your test day and more?

[Read more about NBTs](#)