Student Success at Mandela University
Siyaphumelela Conference 2023

Viwe Matu, Charles Sheppard & Liesl Smith
In 2022, 72\% of undergraduate students were NSFAS funded (excluding Advanced Diplomas which do not qualify for NSFAS funding).
Differences in success rates, 2019 & 2022

• Difference in success rate from success rate of white students

• Difference in success rate of male students from female students
Average annual growth rates in graduates over the period 2019 to 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average annual growth rate 2019 - 2022 Headcount enrolments</th>
<th>Average annual growth rate 2019 - 2022 Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total undergraduate</td>
<td>-6.0%</td>
<td>-4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total postgraduate</td>
<td>-4.9%</td>
<td>-4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Huge declines in Master’s enrolments and graduates 2019 to 2022

Master’s enrolments and graduates, 2019 to 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrolments</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1872</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1741</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>1556</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>1491</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage change from 2019 to 2022

- Enrolments: -32.7% (-20.4% for National, -46.7% for International)
- Graduates: -19.3% (-24.9% for National, -27.2% for International)
Declines in doctoral enrolments and graduates 2019 to 2022

Doctoral enrolments and graduates, 2019 to 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrolments</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage change from 2019 to 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Enrolment Change</th>
<th>Graduation Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>-42.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>-9.6%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-9.8%</td>
<td>-15.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dropout rates at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, 2019 to 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Postgraduate</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The graph shows the percentage of students who dropped out at each level for each year from 2019 to 2022.
Consolidated pass rate for the Intermediate Macroeconomics modules, 2019 -2022

63% 80% 68% 25% 66% 48% 78%

Student Success

• In her inaugural address of 2023 Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sibongile Muthwa, said: “Maintaining and enhancing our standing as a pivot for student access and success will remain a key strategic imperative. Our Learning and Teaching portfolio has put substantive programmes in place to promote student access and success. It is crucially important for us that once a student is admitted to Nelson Mandela University their success is guaranteed, as long as they apply themselves and make use of all facilities available to them.”
Learning and Teaching Collaborative for Success

Programmatic Approach

Dean's Office & Management Team
- Teaching Excellence
  - Teaching Enhancement Program; ECAAP
  - Curriculum & Programme Development
  - SoTL; Approval & TPs
  - Quality Enhancement; Module, Program & Teaching reviews

- Learning Development
  - Learning Development
  - Research Analytics Evaluation Database Management
  - Academic Literacies (incl. FYS)

- Digital Learning Experience Design & Innovation
  - Digital Campus
  - LT Technology & Digital Innovation
  - Learning Experience Design Studio

- Emthonjeni – Fountain of Student Wellness
  - Psychological Well-being
  - Advocacy & Training
  - Career Construction

- Faculty & Campus Linked
  - Financial Aid
  - ICT Services
  - Academic Admin
  - Institutional Planning IR & MIS
  - Research Innovation Internationalization

- Well Zone
- Student Affairs
- Student Placement

“leaving no student behind”
Through benefitting from a life-changing educational experience, Nelson Mandela University graduates will be known for demonstrating the following attributes:

**FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND LITERACIES**
- Core disciplinary depth
- Inter-disciplinary breadth and synthesis
- Knowledge creation
- Multiple literacies (academic, digital, numeracy, civic, etc)
- Transformative competencies

**LEARNING AND INNOVATION COMPETENCIES**
- Intellectual curiosity
- Critical thinking
- Innovation and creativity
- Communication
- Collaboration

**LIFE AND CAREER SKILLS**
- Professionalism and integrity
- Resilience and persistence
- Adaptive expertise
- Socially conscious, responsible global citizens
- Progressive agency
Siyaphumelela 2.0

• 2023 Student in the new normal of post-Covid blended/hybrid learning
• Vision 2030 **strategic priorities & graduate attributes**
• Challenges – scalability & sustainability
• **Data analytics and research** (Case management system, Intelliboard, PG research, Health Science Hybrid Learning research, Review of institutional student support interventions, Mental health study)
• **Student Success and Retention** (FYS, Achieve, Education Journal, Q1-3 Mentoring – student driven, PG research, HS Hybrid, Student Success Coaching & LD case management)
• **Holistic** (BTC, Mental health of staff and students)
How do we determine student success?
“The only religion of mankind is and always has been hope” – Gustav le Bon

Arrival at Mandela University

Challenges

The Q1-3 Mentoring Programme

From mentee to mentor

Continuation of hope
Change the World

www.mandela.ac.za