

A Comprehensive Guide to Undergraduate Admission Prerequisites in Ghana: Pathways, Policies, and Institutional Requirements

Part I: The Framework of Ghanaian Tertiary Admissions

Navigating the landscape of higher education admissions in Ghana requires a clear understanding of the regulatory bodies, standardized qualifications, and common procedures that govern entry into the nation's universities and colleges. This foundational framework provides the context for the specific institutional requirements detailed in subsequent sections, offering prospective applicants a comprehensive overview of the system they are about to enter. The structure is characterized by a recent consolidation of regulatory power and a clear distinction between academic and vocational pathways, each with its own set of rules and expectations.

1.1 The Regulatory Landscape: GTEC and GTVETS

The oversight of tertiary education in Ghana is primarily managed by two key governmental entities: the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) for universities and colleges, and the Ghana TVET Service (GTVETS) in partnership with the Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET) for the vocational sector.

Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC)

GTEC stands as the principal regulatory authority for all tertiary education institutions in Ghana. It was established by the Education Regulatory Bodies Act, 2020 (Act 1023), a landmark piece of legislation that merged the former National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE) and the National Accreditation Board (NAB) into a single, unified body.¹ This

amalgamation, which received Presidential Assent on August 21, 2020, was designed to streamline oversight and enhance quality assurance across the sector.² GTEC's mandate is extensive, covering the accreditation of both public and private institutions and their academic programmes, ensuring the application of the highest quality standards in teaching and research, and promoting equitable access to tertiary education for all qualified Ghanaians.³ The official GTEC website, gtec.edu.gh, serves as the authoritative, centralized database for verifying the accreditation status of all tertiary institutions and their offered programmes, making it an indispensable resource for any prospective applicant.⁵

Ghana TVET Service (GTVETS) and the Commission for TVET (CTVET)
Operating parallel to GTEC is the governance structure for technical and vocational training. The Ghana TVET Service (GTVETS) was established by the Pre-Tertiary Education ACT 2020 (ACT 1049) to manage, oversee, and implement national policies related to pre-tertiary technical and vocational education and training.⁷ This body works in close collaboration with the Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET), which is responsible for regulating and accrediting TVET institutions and their programmes to ensure they meet industry standards.⁹ This dual structure realigned all TVET-providing institutions previously scattered across nine different ministries under the singular oversight of the Ministry of Education, creating a distinct and professionalized pathway for skills-based education.⁷

The establishment of GTEC and the formalization of the GTVETS/CTVET structure in 2020 represent a significant, system-wide reform of Ghana's post-secondary education landscape. This is not merely a rebranding of old agencies but a fundamental restructuring of regulatory authority aimed at creating clearer distinctions and more robust quality control for both academic and vocational tracks. For applicants, this period of transition underscores the importance of relying exclusively on the most current information published directly by GTEC, GTVETS, and the individual institutions. Accreditation statuses are subject to review and change, as evidenced by some programmes or institutions being listed with an "Expired" status on the GTEC portal.¹¹ Therefore, verifying information against these official sources is a critical first step in the application process.

1.2 The Universal Currency: WASSCE and SSSCE

The primary qualification for entry into Ghanaian tertiary institutions is the successful completion of a standardized secondary school examination administered by the West African Examinations Council (WAEC).

- **West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE):** This is the current and most widely used qualification for university admission.
- **Senior School Certificate Examination (SSSCE):** This is the older version of the examination, and its results are still accepted by all institutions, which provide a standardized grade conversion scale.

Admission decisions are based on an applicant's performance in a total of six subjects. These are broken down into two categories:

1. **Core Subjects:** All applicants must obtain credit passes in three to four core subjects, which almost universally include **English Language, Core Mathematics, and Integrated Science**. Some programmes, particularly in the humanities and business fields, may consider **Social Studies** as the third core science subject.¹²
2. **Elective Subjects:** In addition to the core subjects, applicants must present credit passes in three elective subjects that are relevant to their intended programme of study. The specific combination of required electives is a primary differentiator between programmes.

The grading systems for these examinations are as follows: WASSCE grades range from A1 (Excellent) to F9 (Fail), while SSSCE grades range from A (Excellent) to F (Fail). For admission purposes, a "credit pass" is typically defined as A1-C6 for WASSCE and A-D for SSSCE.¹³ An applicant's aggregate score is calculated by summing the values of their best six subjects, usually comprising the three best core subjects and the three relevant elective subjects.¹⁵

A critical distinction that every applicant must understand is the gap between the *minimum eligibility requirement* and the *competitive cut-off point*. While regulatory bodies and general university guidelines may state a minimum entry aggregate of 36 for WASSCE or 24 for SSSCE, this figure merely makes an applicant eligible to be considered for admission.¹⁴ It does not, in any way, guarantee a place. The reality of the admissions process is dictated by supply and demand; for highly sought-after programmes, the number of qualified applicants far exceeds the available slots. Consequently, universities establish much more competitive cut-off points based on the performance of the applicant pool each year. For instance, while the minimum eligibility aggregate is 36, admission into programmes like Medicine or Law at the University of Ghana or KNUST consistently requires an aggregate of 6 or 7.¹² This disparity highlights that applicants should not aim for the minimum standard but must instead research the previous year's cut-off points for their desired programme and strive to achieve a competitive score.

1.3 Common Admission Pathways

Ghanaian tertiary institutions offer several distinct pathways for admission, catering to applicants with diverse educational backgrounds and life experiences.

- **Standard Entry (WASSCE/SSSCE):** This is the most common route, designed for students applying directly from senior high school.¹³
- **Mature Student Entry:** This pathway is for applicants who are at least 25 years old at the time of application. It provides an opportunity for individuals who may not have met the direct entry requirements after secondary school but have since gained relevant life and work experience. The typical requirements for this route include:
 - Proof of age (e.g., a birth certificate issued at least five years prior).
 - Evidence of relevant work experience (e.g., a letter from an employer).
 - Credit passes in Core English and Core Mathematics at the WASSCE/SSSCE level.
 - Successful performance in a university-specific Entrance Examination, which often includes a General Aptitude Test (GAT) and a Subject Area Test (SAT), and may be followed by an interview.¹³
- **HND & Diploma Top-Up Entry:** This route allows holders of a Higher National Diploma (HND) or other recognized tertiary diplomas to gain admission into a degree programme, typically with advanced standing. These applicants often enter at Level 200 or Level 300, effectively shortening the duration of their degree studies. The specific level of entry is determined by the university based on the relevance of the applicant's diploma to the chosen degree programme and their academic performance (e.g., a minimum of a Second-Class Upper division is often required for entry into Level 300).¹⁴
- **International & Foreign Qualifications:** Institutions accept a variety of international qualifications, including the General Certificate of Education (GCE) 'A' Levels, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, and the American High School Diploma. A crucial step for these applicants is to have their qualifications assessed by GTEC to determine their equivalence to the Ghanaian standard.¹⁴ It is important to note that standalone scores from tests like the American SAT or TOEFL are not sufficient for admission; they must be accompanied by a full high school diploma or its equivalent.¹⁶ Furthermore, applicants from non-Anglophone countries must provide evidence of proficiency in the English language, such as a

TOEFL or IELTS score.²²

1.4 The Standard Application Procedure

The application process for most tertiary institutions in Ghana follows a standardized digital pathway initiated by the purchase of an electronic voucher (e-voucher).

1. **Purchase of E-Voucher:** The first step for nearly all Ghanaian applicants is to purchase an application e-voucher. This voucher contains a unique Serial Number and a Personal Identification Number (PIN), which are the keys to accessing the institution's online application portal.²³
2. **Sales Points:** These e-vouchers are sold at designated sales points across the country, which typically include branches of major banks (such as GCB Bank, Ecobank, Zenith Bank, and Fidelity Bank), Ghana Post offices, and increasingly, through mobile money platforms by dialing a specific shortcode (e.g., 8879# or 924200*3#).²³ The cost of the voucher varies by institution and programme type (e.g., undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma).
3. **Online Application:** With the e-voucher details in hand, applicants must visit the specific admissions portal of the institution to which they are applying. After logging in with the serial number and PIN, they are required to complete an online application form, which involves providing personal details, academic history, and programme choices. Applicants must also upload scanned copies of required documents, which typically include their WASSCE/SSSCE results slip, a passport-sized photograph with a specific background colour, and a valid national ID card.²⁴

This process is largely consistent across public and private universities, as well as technical universities, making the e-voucher the universal starting point for tertiary applications in Ghana.

Part II: Prerequisites for Public Universities

Public universities in Ghana, funded by the state, represent the largest and often most competitive segment of the country's higher education system. While they share a

common foundation of requiring WASSCE/SSSCE qualifications, each institution has its own specific entry requirements, cut-off points, and application procedures tailored to its unique academic focus and the demand for its programmes. This section provides a detailed, institution-by-institution breakdown of these prerequisites.

2.1 University of Ghana (UG), Legon

As the nation's oldest and largest university, the University of Ghana (UG) maintains a highly competitive admissions process.

- **General Entry Requirements:** Applicants must possess credit passes (WASSCE A1-C6 or SSSCE A-D) in six subjects. This must include three core subjects—English Language, Core Mathematics, and Integrated Science or Social Studies—and three elective subjects relevant to the applicant's chosen programme. The overall aggregate score calculated from these six subjects should not exceed 24 for regular admissions and 30 for Distance Education programmes.¹²
- **Programme-Specific Requirements:** Admission into UG's various colleges is contingent on specific subject combinations and, in some cases, is limited to first-choice applicants only.
 - **College of Health Sciences:** Programmes such as Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), Bachelor of Dental Surgery, and Doctor of Pharmacy are offered as **first choice only**. Applicants must have credit passes in Chemistry, and any two from Physics, Biology, and Elective Mathematics.¹²
 - **College of Basic and Applied Sciences:** Programmes like BSc Engineering Sciences, BSc Computer Science, and BSc Actuarial Science require a strong foundation in mathematics and science. A minimum grade of B3 in Elective Mathematics is often a prerequisite, alongside passes in Physics and Chemistry for engineering streams.¹²
 - **College of Humanities:** While generally requiring any three elective subjects, admission into specific Bachelor of Arts (BA) majors is tied to performance in relevant SHS subjects. For example, a student wishing to major in French must have a pass in French, and a student aiming for an English major must have a pass in English Literature.¹² The Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and BSc Administration are highly competitive programmes within this college.

- **Strategic Advice from UG:** The university officially advises applicants targeting the highly competitive LLB or BSc Administration programmes to select a BA subject bouquet as their second choice. This strategy significantly enhances their overall chance of gaining admission to the university, as they will be considered for their second choice if they do not meet the stringent cut-off for their first.³⁰
- **Additional Assessments:** An audition or interview is required for admission into the Bachelor of Fine Arts programme for applicants with a demonstrated interest in the performing arts.¹²
- **Official Sources:** The primary sources for all admission information are the university's official admissions portals.
 - Entry Requirements:
<https://admissions.ug.edu.gh/undergraduate/entry-requirements>¹²
 - Application Procedure:
<https://admissions.ug.edu.gh/undergraduate/how-to-apply>²³

Table 2.1: Admission Prerequisites for Select Programmes at the University of Ghana (2024/2025)

Programme	College	Core Subject Requirement	Elective Subject Combination	Latest Cut-Off Aggregate	Additional Requirements
Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)	Health Sciences	English, Core Maths, Integrated Science	Chemistry, and any two from Physics, Biology, Elective Maths	7	First Choice Only
Bachelor of Laws (LLB)	Humanities	English, Core Maths, Social Studies/Int. Science	Any three electives	6	First Choice Only
BSc Computer Engineering	Basic & Applied Sciences	English, Core Maths, Integrated Science	Physics, Chemistry, Elective Mathematics	6	B3 or better in Elective Maths; First Choice Only

BSc Computer Science	Basic & Applied Sciences	English, Core Maths, Integrated Science	Elective Mathematics and any two other subjects	7/9	B3 or better in Elective Mathematics
BSc Administration	Humanities	English, Core Maths, Social Studies/Int. Science	Any three electives	7	-
BA (General Arts Background)	Humanities	English, Core Maths, Social Studies/Int. Science	Any three electives	14(15)	Specific electives required for some majors
Bachelor of Fine Arts	Humanities	English, Core Maths, Social Studies/Int. Science	Any three electives	22	Must attend an audition or interview

Source: University of Ghana Admissions Website¹²

2.2 Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi

KNUST is Ghana's premier institution for science and technology education, with highly competitive admission standards, particularly for its STEM-focused programmes.

- **General Entry Requirements:** Applicants must have credit passes (WASSCE A1-C6 or SSSCE A-D) in three core subjects: English Language, Core Mathematics, and Integrated Science. Additionally, they need credit passes in three elective subjects relevant to their chosen field of study. The total aggregate score must be 24 or better.¹³
- **Programme-Specific Requirements and Cut-Off Points:** KNUST transparently publishes the cut-off aggregates from the previous academic year to serve as a guide for prospective applicants. This data is invaluable for assessing competitiveness.

- **College of Engineering:** This is one of the most competitive colleges. Programmes like Aerospace Engineering, Computer Engineering, Petroleum Engineering, and Electrical/Electronic Engineering had a cut-off aggregate of 06 for the 2024/2025 cycle. All engineering programmes mandatorily require passes in **Physics, Chemistry, and Elective Mathematics**.¹⁵
- **College of Health Sciences:** Admission is equally competitive. Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D), Human Biology (Medicine), and Bachelor of Dental Surgery all had a cut-off of 06. BSc Nursing had a cut-off of 07. The required electives are typically **Biology, Chemistry, and Physics or Elective Mathematics**.¹⁵
- **College of Art and Built Environment:** Programmes like BSc Architecture (cut-off 07), BSc Quantity Surveying (cut-off 09), and BA Communication Design (cut-off 11) have varying elective requirements. For instance, Fine Art programmes require Visual Arts electives, while Planning programmes favour Geography and Economics.¹⁵
- **College of Humanities and Social Sciences:** LLB (Law) had a cut-off of 06, while BSc Business Administration had cut-offs of 07-09 depending on the specialization. Elective requirements are more flexible but must be relevant.¹⁵
- **Additional Assessments:** Shortlisted applicants for the graduate-entry stream into Medicine and Dentistry are required to attend an interview.²⁸
- **Official Sources:**
 - Admissions Portal: <https://apps.knust.edu.gh/admissions/apply/>²⁸
 - Cut-off Points Document: (https://webapps.knust.edu.gh/check/forms/Admission_Requirements.pdf)¹⁵

Table 2.2: Admission Prerequisites & Cut-Off Points for Select Programmes at KNUST (2024/2025)

Programme	College	Required Elective Subjects	2024/2025 Cut-Off Aggregate
BSc Petroleum Engineering	Engineering	Chemistry, Physics, Elective Mathematics	06
BSc Computer Engineering	Engineering	Chemistry, Physics, Elective Mathematics	06
BSc Human Biology (Medicine)	Health Sciences	Chemistry, Physics, Biology	06

Pharm D (Doctor of Pharmacy)	Health Sciences	Chemistry, Physics, Biology	06
LLB (Bachelor of Laws)	Humanities & Social Sciences	Varies (Arts or Business electives)	06
BSc Architecture	Art & Built Environment	Varies (Visual Arts, Technical, or Science electives)	07
BSc Business Administration (Accounting)	Humanities & Social Sciences	Varies (Business or General Arts electives)	07

Source: KNUST Admissions Website ¹⁵

2.3 University of Cape Coast (UCC)

UCC is renowned for its programmes in Education, Business, and Health Sciences. The university provides exceptionally clear guidelines for its various admission pathways.

- **General Entry Requirements:**
 - **WASSCE Holders:** Must have credit passes (A1-C6) in six subjects (three core, three electives) with an overall aggregate of 36 or better.¹⁴
 - **SSSCE Holders:** Must have credit passes (A-D) in six subjects (three core, three electives) with an overall aggregate of 24 or better.¹⁴
- **Admission Pathways:**
 - **Post-Senior High School:** The standard route for WASSCE/SSSCE applicants.
 - **GCE 'A' Level:** Requires five GCE 'O' Level credits (including English and Maths) plus at least two passes in relevant 'A' Level subjects.¹⁴
 - **Mature Students' Entrance Examination:** Applicants must be at least 25 years old, hold credit passes in 'O' Level/WASSCE/SSSCE English and Core Maths, and pass the university's entrance examination, which consists of a General Paper and an Aptitude Test. Successful candidates are then invited for an interview.¹⁴
 - **HND/Diploma Holders:** Admission and placement level (200 or 300) depend on an assessment of the diploma. HND holders typically need a minimum of Second-Class Upper Division for placement into Level 300, provided there is a good match with the UCC programme.¹⁴
- **Additional Assessments:** As noted, mature applicants must pass an entrance

exam and interview. Certain certificate programmes, such as the Certificate in Health Information, also require an entrance examination and interview for applicants who do not meet direct entry requirements.³²

- **Official Sources:**

- Undergraduate Programmes Information:
<https://ucc.edu.gh/main/applicants-and-students/undergraduate-programme>¹⁴
- Application Portal: <https://apply.ucc.edu.gh/>³³

2.4 University for Development Studies (UDS)

UDS has a unique focus on practical, community-oriented education, with campuses spread across northern Ghana. Note that some former UDS campuses have been converted into autonomous universities, such as the S.D. Dombo University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS) and the C.K. Tedom University of Technology and Applied Sciences, so applicants must ensure they are applying to the correct institution.

- **General Entry Requirements:** Applicants must have passes in six subjects (three core, three electives) from WASSCE or SSSCE. Specific science programmes require an aggregate of 9 or better.³⁴
- **Programme-Specific Requirements:**
 - **Medicine (MBChB):** Applicants must have a General Science background from SHS with passes in English, Core Maths, Integrated Science, and electives in Chemistry, Physics, and Biology or Elective Mathematics.³⁴
 - **Nursing (Top-Up):** This programme is for registered General Nurses or Midwives who hold a Diploma. They must be in good standing with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) of Ghana and have a minimum of two years of post-qualification work experience.³⁴
- **Additional Assessments:** All mature applicants must be 25 years or older, pass an entrance examination, and attend an interview. For some programmes, interviews may be scheduled for all shortlisted candidates.³⁴
- **Official Sources:**
 - Undergraduate Admissions:
<https://uds.edu.gh/admissions/undergraduate-admissions>³⁴
 - Application Procedure: <https://uds.edu.gh/admissions/application-procedure>

2.5 University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa

UMaT is a specialized public university focused on engineering, science, and technology related to the mining and energy sectors.

- **General Entry Requirements:** UMaT primarily seeks applicants with a strong academic background in Science and Mathematics. The minimum aggregate for WASSCE is 36, and for SSSCE it is 24.³⁶
- **Core and Elective Subjects:** Credit passes in Core English and Core Mathematics are mandatory. At least one relevant science elective is also required.³⁶
- **Mature Applicants:** Must be at least 25 years old and hold an SSSCE or GCE 'O' Level certificate with credits in five subjects, including English, Mathematics, and a relevant science subject. They must also have relevant work experience and pass an entrance examination or interview.¹⁹
- **Application Process:** Ghanaian applicants purchase an e-voucher from designated banks or post offices to apply online. International applicants request login details directly from the university's portal.²⁵
- **Official Sources:**
 - Admissions Overview: <https://www.umat.edu.gh/overview-undergraduate> ²⁵
 - Application Portal: <https://www.umat.edu.gh/admissions/apply-now> ³⁷
 - Note: The primary entry requirements page was inaccessible during research, necessitating reliance on other official university pages and verified news sources.³⁸

2.6 University of Education, Winneba (UEW)

UEW is the nation's leading institution for teacher education, offering a wide array of programmes in education, arts, and social sciences across multiple campuses.

- **General Entry Requirements:** All applicants must have an active email address, a mobile phone number, and digital copies of their results slip/certificate, a passport photograph, and a national ID card before starting the application.²⁴
- **Admission Pathways:** UEW offers a flexible range of study modes and entry

types:

- **Modes:** Full-time/Regular, Sandwich, and Distance Education.
- **Entry Types:** Direct (for WASSCE/SSSCE holders), Mature, and Post-Diploma (for top-up applicants).²⁴
- **Additional Assessments:** Mature entry applicants are required to pass an Entrance Examination comprising a General Aptitude Test (GAT) and a Subject Area Test (SAT) organized by the university.³⁹
- **Official Sources:**
 - Undergraduate Applicants Page:
<https://uew.edu.gh/admissions/apply/undergraduate-applicants> ²⁴
 - Direct Admissions Information: <https://uew.edu.gh/admissions/direct> ³⁹

2.7 University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS), Ho

Established in 2012, UHAS is a specialized public university dedicated exclusively to health sciences education and research.

- **General Entry Requirements:** Applicants must have credit passes (A1-C6 in WASSCE or A-D in SSSCE) in **four** core subjects: English Language, Core Mathematics, Integrated Science, **and** Social Studies. While Social Studies is not included in the calculation of aggregates for admission, a credit pass in the subject is a mandatory requirement.⁴⁰ In addition, applicants need passes in three relevant elective subjects.
- **Programme-Specific Cut-Off Points:** UHAS provides a guide to the cut-off aggregates for its programmes based on the previous year's admissions. For the 2023/2024 cycle, these were:
 - Medicine / Dental Surgery / Pharmacy: Aggregate 08
 - Physician Assistantship: Aggregate 09
 - Nursing / Midwifery: Aggregate 8 for non-science students, 10 for science students.
 - Allied Health Sciences (e.g., Medical Laboratory, Dietetics, Radiography): Aggregates ranged from 12 to 17.⁴⁰
- **Application Process:** A critical step for applicants using awaiting results is to update their application on the UHAS portal with their WASSCE results as soon as they are released. The university sets a firm deadline for this update.⁴¹
- **Official Sources:**
 - Undergraduate Admissions Page:

<https://www.uhas.edu.gh/uhas/undergraduate-admissions> ⁴⁰

- Entry Requirements: <https://www.uhas.edu.gh/uhas/entry-requirements> ⁴⁰

2.8 University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR), Sunyani

UENR is a public university with a focus on science, technology, and management related to energy and natural resources.

- **General Entry Requirements:** The standard requirement for WASSCE/SSSCE holders is credit passes (A1-C6 / A-D) in three core subjects (English, Mathematics, and Integrated Science/Social Studies) and three relevant elective subjects.²⁰
- **Other Admission Pathways:** UENR accepts a broad range of qualifications, including:
 - GCE 'A' Level
 - Higher National Diploma (HND) and other Diplomas for top-up admission.
 - Mature Applicants (must be 25+ and pass the university's entrance examination).
 - International qualifications such as IB and IGCSE, which must be evaluated by GTEC for equivalence.²⁰
- **Official Sources:**
 - Admissions Details Page: <https://uenr.edu.gh/admission-details/> ²⁰

2.9 Public Technical Universities

Formerly known as Polytechnics, Ghana's ten Public Technical Universities are tertiary, degree-granting institutions. They are distinct from second-cycle Technical Institutes, which typically admit students based on B.E.C.E. results. Technical Universities primarily admit WASSCE/SSSCE holders and offer Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech), Higher National Diploma (HND), and other diploma programmes with a strong emphasis on practical, hands-on training.

Accra Technical University (ATU)

- **Programmes:** Offers 4-year B.Tech degrees, 2-year B.Tech Top-Ups for HND

holders, 3-year HNDs, and various professional diplomas.⁴³

- **Entry Requirements:**
 - **B.Tech (4-Year):** WASSCE (A1-C6) / SSSCE (A-D) in six subjects (3 core, 3 electives), with a cumulative aggregate of 36/24 or better.⁴⁵
 - **HND:** WASSCE (A1-D7) / SSSCE (A-D) in six subjects. At least three passes must be C6/Credit or better.⁴⁶
 - **Mature Applicants:** Must be 25+, have relevant work experience, and pass an entrance exam in English, Maths, and General Knowledge.⁴⁵
- **Official Sources:** ATU Admissions Booklet ⁴⁶, How to Apply Page.⁴⁷

Ho Technical University (HTU)

- **Programmes:** Offers Bachelor's degrees, HNDs, and Diplomas.²⁶
- **Entry Requirements:**
 - **Bachelor's Degree:** Requires an HND (minimum Second Class Lower) for top-up, or WASSCE with credit passes (A1-C6) for direct entry.⁴⁹
 - **HND:** Requires WASSCE with passes (A1-D7) or a relevant TVET Certificate II.⁴⁹
 - **Mature Applicants:** Must be 25 years or older to be eligible.⁴⁹
- **Official Sources:** HTU Admissions Page <https://htu.edu.gh/htu-admissions/>.⁴⁹

Kumasi Technical University (KsTU)

- **Programmes:** Offers B.Tech, HND, and Diploma programmes.
 - **Entry Requirements:** Follows a similar structure to ATU and HTU.
 - **B.Tech (4-Year):** WASSCE (A1-C6) / SSSCE (A-D) in six subjects (3 core, 3 electives).⁵⁰
 - **HND:** WASSCE (A1-D7) / SSSCE (A-D) in six subjects, with minimum C6/Credit in three relevant electives.⁵¹
 - **Mature Applicants:** Must be 25+, have work experience, and pass an entrance examination.⁵¹
 - **Official Sources:** KsTU Entry Requirements Page ⁵⁰, How to Apply Page.⁵²
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Part III: Prerequisites for Private Universities

Private universities in Ghana play a vital role in expanding access to tertiary education. While they adhere to the same GTEC accreditation standards as public institutions, many are distinguished by more holistic admission processes, smaller class sizes, and

specialized programme offerings. This section details the prerequisites for a selection of prominent accredited private universities.

3.1 Ashesi University

Ashesi University is widely recognized for its liberal arts core curriculum, focus on ethical leadership, and a highly selective, holistic admissions process.

- **Academic Requirements:** Ashesi accepts a range of qualifications, including:
 - **WASSCE:** A minimum grade of C6 in six subjects is required, comprising three core subjects (Integrated Science, Core Math, Core English) and three electives.⁵³
 - **IGCSE/GCE:** Six 'O' Level passes (including Maths, English, Science) and at least three 'A' Level passes (grades A–D).⁵³
 - **International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma** and other equivalent qualifications approved by GTEC.⁵³
- **Holistic Review Process:** Ashesi's admissions committee goes beyond grades to evaluate the whole applicant. The process includes a thorough review of the online application, which features personal essays and sections for extracurricular activities. Shortlisted candidates are then invited for a personal interview, which is a mandatory component of the final decision-making process.²²
- **Programme-Specific Requirements:** Applicants intending to major in any of the Engineering programmes must have taken **Physics and Elective/Further Mathematics** at the secondary level.⁵³
- **International Students:** Applicants for whom English was not the language of instruction in high school must submit proof of English proficiency, such as scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).²²
- **Official Sources:**
 - How to Apply Page: <https://ashesi.edu.gh/how-to-apply/>²²
 - Admissions Office Contact: admissions@ashesi.edu.gh or +233 50 131 8961.⁵⁴

3.2 Accra Institute of Technology (AIT)

AIT is a technology-focused university offering both on-campus and online (Open University) programmes, making it a flexible option for various students.

- **Programmes:** AIT offers undergraduate degrees in Engineering, Information Technology, and Business Administration.⁵⁵
- **Entry Requirements:**
 - **WASSCE/SSSCE:** A minimum of C6 (WASSCE) in six subjects, including three core (English, Core Maths, Integrated Science/Social Studies) and three electives.⁵⁵
 - **Engineering and Computer Science:** Applicants for these programmes must have passes in **Physics and Elective Mathematics**.⁵⁵
 - **HND Top-Up:** Applicants holding an HND in a relevant field with at least a Second Class Lower division are eligible for admission into Level 300 of the corresponding B.Tech programme.⁵⁵
 - **Mature Applicants:** Must be 25 years or older, provide a birth certificate, and have at least a credit pass (C6 or equivalent) in English and Mathematics.⁵⁵
 - **Transfer Students:** May receive exemptions based on an official transcript from their previous accredited institution.⁵⁵
- **Official Sources:**
 - Admissions Portal: <https://admission.ait.edu.gh/>⁵⁵
 - AIT Admissions Brochure.⁵⁵

3.3 Central University

Central University is one of Ghana's largest and most established private universities, with a wide range of programmes across multiple schools.

- **General Entry Requirements:**
 - **WASSCE:** Credit passes (A1-C6) in three core subjects and three electives, with a total aggregate of 36 or better.⁵⁷
 - **SSSCE:** Credit passes (A-D) in three core subjects and three electives, with a total aggregate of 24 or better.⁵⁷
 - **Other Pathways:** The university also admits students with GCE 'A' Levels, HND/Diplomas (for entry into Level 200 or 300), and through a Mature Students' Entrance Examination for applicants aged 25 and above.⁵⁷
- **Programme-Specific Elective Requirements:**

- **School of Pharmacy & School of Medicine and Health Sciences (Physician Assistantship):** Require electives in **Biology, Chemistry, and Physics or Elective Mathematics.**⁵⁷
- **School of Engineering and Technology (Civil Engineering):** Requires **Elective Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry.**⁵⁷
- **Nursing:** Uniquely accepts applicants from a broad range of SHS programmes, including Science, General Arts, Agriculture, and Home Economics, provided they have the required core subject passes.⁵⁷
- **Application Process:** Applicants can apply online by purchasing an e-voucher or obtain a paper application form from designated banks or university campuses.⁵⁷
- **Official Sources:**
 - Admissions Page: <https://www.central.edu.gh/admission>⁵⁷

3.4 Valley View University (VVU)

VVU is a private university affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, offering a variety of programmes in business, science, education, and theology.

- **General Entry Requirements:** VVU accepts WASSCE/SSSCE holders, GCE 'A' Level graduates, HND/Diploma holders for top-up, and Mature Students.⁵⁸
 - **WASSCE/SSSCE:** Requires six subjects (three core including English and Maths, and three relevant electives).⁵⁸
 - **Mature Applicants:** Must be 25 years or older and pass the university's Mature Entrance Examination in English, Mathematics, and a General Paper.⁵⁸
- **Programme-Specific Requirements:**
 - **BSc Nursing & BSc Midwifery:** Accept applicants from Science, General Arts, Home Economics, and Agricultural Science backgrounds. Registered Nurses (RGN) and Registered Midwives (RM) with diplomas can also apply for top-up programmes.⁵⁸
 - **BSc Computer Science & BSc Biomedical Engineering:** Require a science background or, for non-science students, a pass in Elective Mathematics.⁵⁸
- **Application Process:** The university explicitly warns applicants against using third-party agents for admissions and provides downloadable application forms on its website for those who prefer to apply offline.⁵⁹
- **Official Sources:**
 - Admissions Information Page: <https://vvu.edu.gh/index.php/resources/freshmen-info/2019-2020-admissions>

3.5 Ghana Communication Technology University (GCTU)

Formerly the Ghana Telecom University College, GCTU is a public-private hybrid that became a fully public university but retains a structure common to many private institutions. It specializes in ICT, engineering, and business programmes.

- **General Entry Requirements:**
 - **WASSCE:** Passes (A1-D7) in six subjects (three core, three electives).²⁷
 - **SSSCE:** Passes (A-D) in six subjects (three core, three electives).²⁷
- **Other Pathways:**
 - **HND/Diploma Holders:** Can apply for top-up programmes with placement into Level 200 or 300.²⁷
 - **Professional Qualifications:** GCTU accepts Stage 1 of professional certificates like ACCA, ICA, ACIB, and CIM, provided the applicant also has GCE 'O' Level credits in English and Maths.²⁷
 - **Mature Applicants:** Must be 25 years or older and are required to pass a Mature Entrance Examination.²⁷
- **Official Sources:**
 - Admissions Announcement: <https://site.gctu.edu.gh/announcements/2025-2026-admissions-open.aspx> ²⁷
 - Admissions Policy: <https://site.gctu.edu.gh/admission-policy> ⁶⁰

3.6 All Nations University College

All Nations University is a private institution particularly noted for its engineering programmes, including being the first in Ghana to design and launch a satellite.

- **General Entry Requirements:** The university accepts WASSCE (C6 or better), SSSCE (D or better), GCE 'A' Levels, HND, and Mature Students.¹⁸
- **Programme-Specific Requirements:**
 - **Engineering:** All engineering programmes require passes in **Physics, Chemistry, and Elective Mathematics**. For Biomedical Engineering, Biology can be accepted as a substitute for Chemistry.¹⁸

- **Computer Science (Honours):** Requires at least a credit pass in **Physics and Elective Mathematics**.¹⁸
 - **HND Top-Up Placement:** All Nations has a clear, structured policy for HND applicants. Placement is determined by the applicant's HND class and relevant work experience:
 - **First Class HND:** Requires at least one year of work experience for admission to Level 300.
 - **Second Class HND (Upper or Lower):** Requires at least one year of work experience for admission to Level 200.
 - **Third Class/Pass HND:** Requires at least three years of work experience for admission to Level 100.¹⁸
 - **Official Sources:**
 - Entry Requirements Page: <https://anu.edu.gh/entry-requirements/>¹⁸
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Part IV: Prerequisites for Colleges of Education and TVET Institutions

Beyond the traditional university system, Ghana offers robust, specialized pathways for teacher training and technical/vocational skills acquisition. These sectors have distinct regulatory frameworks and admission procedures that are crucial for applicants to understand.

4.1 Public Colleges of Education (CoE)

The 46 accredited Public Colleges of Education in Ghana are the primary institutions for training teachers for the nation's basic schools. They offer a four-year Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degree, and their admissions process is standardized and centrally managed.

- **Standardized Admission Requirements:** Regardless of the specific college, the entry requirements for the B.Ed. programme are uniform across all 46 public institutions.
 - **WASSCE Holders:** Must have credit passes (A1-C6) in six subjects. This must include **three core subjects (English Language, Core Mathematics, and**

either Integrated Science or Social Studies) and three elective subjects relevant to the chosen area of specialization (e.g., JHS Education, Primary Education).¹⁶

- **SSSCE Holders:** Must have credit passes (A-D) in six subjects, following the same 3 core and 3 elective structure.¹⁶
- **TVET Applicants:** The system provides a pathway for applicants with various TVET qualifications, such as the TVET Certificate II. These applicants typically need to have passes in the three core subjects (English, Maths, Science/Social Studies) in addition to their technical/vocational electives.¹⁶
- **Other Qualifications:** GCE 'A' Level and ABCE qualifications are also accepted, with specific requirements for passes at both the ordinary and advanced levels.²¹
- **Centralized Application Process:** A key feature of CoE admissions is its centralized nature.
 1. Applicants purchase a single, universal e-voucher from designated banks or through mobile money (9248#).¹⁶
 2. Using the PIN and Serial Number from the voucher, they apply through one central online portal: **admission.coeportal.edu.gh**.²¹
 3. On the portal, applicants must select three Colleges of Education in their order of preference and choose a Ghanaian Language offered at their preferred colleges.²¹
 4. After online submission, a copy of the application summary form, along with a passport photo and results slip, must be mailed to the principal of the applicant's first-choice college.²¹
- **Special Needs Applicants:** The admission guidelines make specific provisions for visually and hearing-impaired applicants. For example, visually impaired applicants may be required to have credit passes in only two core subjects (English Language and Social Studies) plus three relevant electives, a slight variation from the standard requirement.⁶⁶
- **Case Studies: Komenda and Fosu Colleges of Education:** The admission requirements listed on the individual websites of Komenda College of Education and Fosu College of Education align perfectly with the centralized guidelines, confirming the standardized nature of the system.⁶²
- **Official Sources:**
 - Central Admissions Portal: <https://admission.coeportal.edu.gh/> ¹⁶
 - Admissions Procedure Document: ⁶³
 - Komenda College of Education: <https://komendacollege.edu.gh/> ⁶²
 - Fosu College of Education: <https://fosco.edu.gh/> ⁶⁹

4.2 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions

The TVET sector in Ghana is designed to provide practical, hands-on skills for direct entry into the workforce or entrepreneurship. Its admission structure is fundamentally different from the university system, as it is built around a progressive qualifications framework that allows for multiple entry and exit points.

- **The National TVET Qualifications Framework (NTVETQF):** This framework is the backbone of the TVET system. It is a ladder system with eight qualification levels, designed to facilitate progression from basic proficiency to advanced technological expertise.⁷⁰
 - **Level 1: National Proficiency I:** A bridging programme for those with minimal or no formal education.
 - **Level 2: National Proficiency II:** Requires completion of National Proficiency I.
 - **Level 3: National Certificate I:** Entry requires a **Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE)** pass or National Proficiency II.
 - **Level 4: National Certificate II:** Entry requires a **West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE)** pass or National Certificate I.
 - **Level 5: Higher National Diploma (HND):** Entry requires a WASSCE pass or National Certificate II.
 - **Levels 6-8:** Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech), Master of Technology (M.Tech), and Doctor of Technology (D.Tech), creating a full pathway from basic skills to doctoral-level research within the TVET system.⁷⁰

The structure of the NTVETQF reveals a critical distinction: while universities and technical universities primarily admit WASSCE holders, many foundational TVET institutions admit students directly from Junior High School based on their **B.E.C.E. results**. This makes the TVET pathway accessible to a different cohort of students than the traditional university track.

- **Case Study: Accra Technical Training Centre (ATTC)**
 - **Primary Entry Qualification:** ATTC admits students based on their **B.E.C.E. results**. Applicants must have an aggregate score not exceeding 30.⁷¹
 - **Admission Process:** Admission is managed through the computerized school placement system run by the Ghana Education Service for all JHS graduates. Students select their preferred technical institutes during the school selection

process prior to the B.E.C.E..⁷³

- **Other Pathways:** The centre also provides avenues for apprentices and master craftsmen seeking to formalize their skills, and it conducts a written entrance examination for foreign nationals.⁷¹
- **Certification:** Graduates of ATTC and similar technical institutes are awarded certificates from bodies like the National Board for Professional and Technician Examinations (NABPTEx), now part of CTVET, not WASSCE certificates.⁷² These certificates can then be used for progression to higher levels within the NTVETQF, such as an HND at a Technical University.
- **Official Sources:**
 - Ghana TVET Service: <https://gtvets.gov.gh/>⁷
 - National TVET Qualifications Framework: <https://gtvets.gov.gh/tvet-qualifications-framework/>⁷⁰
 - Accra Technical Training Centre: <https://attcghana.com/index.php/admissions/>

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Part V: Strategic Insights for the Prospective Applicant

Successfully navigating the admissions process in Ghana requires more than just meeting the minimum academic thresholds. It demands a strategic approach based on a nuanced understanding of how the system operates. This section synthesizes the detailed data from the report into actionable advice for prospective applicants, focusing on the critical differences between eligibility and competitiveness, the importance of subject selection, and the strategic use of application choices.

5.1 Decoding the Difference: Minimum Requirements vs. Competitive Cut-Off Points

One of the most significant hurdles for uninformed applicants is the misconception that meeting the minimum entry requirements guarantees admission. The reality is far more competitive. The Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) sets a baseline for eligibility—for instance, a WASSCE aggregate of 36 or an SSSCE aggregate of 24 makes a candidate eligible for consideration.¹⁴ However, this is merely the entry ticket

to the competition.

The actual determinant of admission, especially for high-demand programmes, is the competitive cut-off point established by each university. This figure is not arbitrary; it is a direct function of the number of available slots for a programme versus the number and quality of applications received in a given year. For example, programmes like Medicine, Law, and Engineering at premier institutions such as the University of Ghana and KNUST receive thousands of applications from students with excellent grades. To manage this volume, the cut-off aggregate is set at a level that filters for the top-performing candidates.

This leads to a substantial gap between the national minimum and the practical requirement. While the minimum WASSCE aggregate is 36, the 2024/2025 cut-off for Medicine at UG was 7, for Law at KNUST was 6, and for Pharmacy at UHAS was 8.¹² An applicant with an aggregate of 15, while well above the national minimum, would still not be competitive for these specific programmes. Therefore, a key strategic action for any applicant is to research the historical cut-off points for their desired programmes at their target institutions. Many universities, like KNUST and UHAS, publish this data on their websites. This allows applicants to set realistic academic goals and make informed decisions about where their grades will be most competitive.

5.2 Navigating Subject Combinations for High-Demand Programmes

While overall aggregate is crucial, the combination of elective subjects studied in Senior High School is the primary gatekeeper for entry into specific fields of study. For many of the most sought-after professions, the required subject combinations are non-negotiable.

- **Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Allied Health Sciences:** The foundational requirement across all universities (UG, KNUST, UHAS) is the "golden trio" of science electives: **Biology, Chemistry, and Physics**. Some programmes may accept **Elective Mathematics** as a substitute for Physics, but Biology and Chemistry are almost always mandatory.¹² Applicants without this specific combination are typically ineligible for these programmes, regardless of their aggregate score.
- **Engineering:** Similarly, all engineering disciplines—from Civil and Mechanical to

Computer and Aerospace—at institutions like KNUST, UMaT, and UG require the trio of **Elective Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry**. A strong pass, often a B2 or B3, in Elective Mathematics is frequently specified as a prerequisite.¹²

- **Law and Business Administration:** These fields offer more flexibility in elective subjects. Applicants from General Arts, Business, or even Science backgrounds are eligible, provided they have strong grades. However, excellent performance in **English Language and Social Studies** is critically important. For certain business specializations, a background in Economics, Accounting, or Business Management is advantageous.¹²
- **Computer Science and Information Technology:** This field is increasingly leaning towards a STEM foundation. While some institutions may accept students from various backgrounds, top-tier programmes at universities like UG and KNUST now explicitly require **Elective Mathematics** as a prerequisite.¹² This reflects the mathematically intensive nature of modern computing.

5.3 The Importance of Application Choices: A Strategy for Success

Most university application forms require applicants to list several programme choices in order of preference. How these choices are used is a point of strategic importance. The process is typically sequential: an applicant is first considered for their first-choice programme. If they do not meet the cut-off for that choice, they are then considered for their second choice, and so on.

This sequential process means that listing multiple highly competitive programmes for which an applicant is unlikely to meet the cut-off is an ineffective strategy. For instance, an applicant with an aggregate of 12 who lists Medicine (cut-off 7) as their first choice and Law (cut-off 6) as their second choice at the University of Ghana will likely be rejected from both.

A more effective strategy, as officially advised by the University of Ghana, is to pair a highly competitive "reach" programme as a first choice with a more attainable "safer" programme as a second or third choice.³⁰ For example, an applicant aiming for BSc Administration (cut-off 7) at UG would be wise to select a Bachelor of Arts programme (cut-off 14-15) as their second choice. This maximizes their chances of gaining admission into the university, even if it is not in their initial preferred programme.

5.4 Preparing for Success: A Guide to Interviews, Entrance Exams, and Portfolios

For certain pathways and programmes, admission is not based solely on WASSCE grades. Applicants must prepare for additional layers of assessment.

- **Mature Student Entrance Examinations:** This is a mandatory step for all mature applicants (aged 25 and above). The exams, such as those administered by UEW, typically consist of a General Aptitude Test (GAT) to assess general cognitive ability and a Subject Area Test (SAT) to assess knowledge in the applicant's chosen field.³⁹ Preparation should involve revising fundamental concepts in English, Mathematics, and the specific subject area.
- **Holistic Reviews and Interviews:** Institutions like Ashesi University employ a holistic review process where personal essays, extracurricular involvement, and letters of recommendation are carefully weighed.²² The interview is a crucial component. Preparation should involve reflecting on personal experiences, articulating career goals, and understanding the institution's mission and values. Applicants should be prepared to discuss their motivations and what they would contribute to the university community.
- **Portfolios and Auditions:** Creative programmes, such as the Bachelor of Fine Arts at UG, require applicants to demonstrate their talent through a portfolio of their work or a live audition.¹² Applicants should carefully curate their best work according to the university's specifications and be prepared to perform or discuss their creative process.

By understanding these strategic nuances, prospective applicants can move beyond simply meeting requirements and begin to actively shape an application that is both compelling and competitive, significantly increasing their likelihood of securing admission into their desired institution and programme.

Appendix: Consolidated Institutional Reference List

This appendix provides a centralized, quick-access directory to the official admissions resources for the primary institutions discussed in this report. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult these primary sources for the most current information,

application forms, and deadlines.

Table A.1: Official Admissions Resources for Ghanaian Higher Education Institutions

Institution Name	Type	GTEC Accreditation Status	Direct Link to Admissions Page
Public Universities			
University of Ghana (UG)	Public University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/accredited-institutions)	https://admissions.ug.edu.gh/undergraduate/entry-requirements
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)	Public University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/accredited-institutions)	https://apps.knust.edu.gh/admissions/apply/
University of Cape Coast (UCC)	Public University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/accredited-institutions)	https://ucc.edu.gh/main/applicants-and-students/undergraduate-programmes
University for Development Studies (UDS)	Public University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/accredited-institutions)	https://uds.edu.gh/admissions/undergraduate-admissions
University of Mines and Technology (UMaT)	Public University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/accredited-institutions)	https://www.umat.edu.gh/overview-undergraduate
University of Education, Winneba (UEW)	Public University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/accredited-institutions)	https://uew.edu.gh/admissions/apply/undergraduate-applicants
University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS)	Public University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/accredited-institutions)	https://www.uhas.edu.gh/uhas/undergraduate-admissions
University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR)	Public University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/accredited-institutions)	https://uenr.edu.gh/admission-details/

Accra Technical University (ATU)	Public Technical University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/acccredited-institutions)	https://atu.edu.gh/how-to-apply-to-atu/
Ho Technical University (HTU)	Public Technical University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/acccredited-institutions)	https://htu.edu.gh/htu-admissions/
Kumasi Technical University (KsTU)	Public Technical University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/acccredited-institutions)	https://apply.kstu.edu.gh/
Private Universities			
Ashesi University	Chartered Private University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/acccredited-institutions)	https://ashesi.edu.gh/how-to-apply/
Accra Institute of Technology (AIT)	Private Tertiary Institution	(https://gtec.edu.gh/acccredited-institutions)	https://admission.ait.edu.gh/
Central University	Chartered Private University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/acccredited-institutions)	https://www.central.edu.gh/admission
Valley View University (VVU)	Chartered Private University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/acccredited-institutions)	https://vvu.edu.gh/index.php/resources/freshmen-info/2019-2020-admissions-now-open
Ghana Communication Technology University (GCTU)	Public University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/acccredited-institutions)	https://site.gctu.edu.gh/announcements/2025-2026-admissions-open.aspx
All Nations University	Chartered Private University	(https://gtec.edu.gh/acccredited-institutions)	https://anu.edu.gh/en/try-requirements/
Colleges & TVET			
Public Colleges of Education (Central Portal)	Public College of Education	(https://gtec.edu.gh/acccredited-institutions)	https://admission.coeportal.edu.gh/

Komenda College of Education	Public College of Education	(https://gtec.edu.gh/accredited-institutions)	https://komendacollege.edu.gh/education
Fosu College of Education	Public College of Education	(https://gtec.edu.gh/accredited-institutions)	https://fosco.edu.gh/admission-to-foso-college-of-education/
Ghana TVET Service (GTVETS)	TVET Regulatory Body	N/A	https://gtvets.gov.gh/
Accra Technical Training Centre (ATTC)	TVET Institution	(https://gtvets.gov.gh/private-schools/)	https://attcghana.com/index.php/admissions/

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