

**WALTER SISULU UNIVERSITY (19)**

**FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES**

**Bachelor of Science Honours in Botany (BSB)**

**CHE COMMENT 1**

The institution should provide clarity on its inclusion of six elective modules. The coherence of the programme could be compromised by different students choosing different combinations of electives.

**Response:**

1. Previously the Honours students in Botany had no defined options in terms of field speciality. Therefore there were six electives from which a student could choose. This meant that students could end up with completely unrelated modules. Therefore the department decided to introduce three different options; Ecology, Plant Physiology and Plant Biotechnology, under the Honours programme which will ensure that students are enrolled for subjects related to their field of career path.
2. A student may choose any one of the three options. Each option, as indicated above, comprises five core courses and only two electives. As such, the coherence of the study is maintained amongst students in the department who are interested in a particular study field.
3. Hence the core modules as well as the elective are now based on these new structure as shown on the table.
4. As such the programme is realigned, with fewer electives.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **ECOLOGY** | **PHYSIOLOGY** | **BIOTECHNOLOGY** |
| **Project** **BOT4106** | **Project** | **Project** |
| **Scientific Methodology** **BOT4108** | **Scientific Methodology BOT4108** | **Scientific Methodology BOT4108** |
| **Statistical Methods** **BOT4110** | **Statistical Methods** **BOT4110** | **Statistical Methods** **BOT4110** |
| **GIS & Computer Literacy**  **BOT4109** | **Plant Physiology** **BOT4103** | **Biotechnology** **BOT4105** |
| **Ecology** **BOT4102** | **Ecology** **BOT4102** | **Plant Physiology BOT4103** |
| **Plant Systematics**  **BOT4101** | **Plant Systematics**  **BOT4101** | **Plant Systematics**  **BOT4101** |
|  |  |  |
| Ethnobotany  BOT4104/ Plant Physiology BOT4103 | Ethnobotany  BOT4104/ Conservation Biology  BOT4107 | Ethnobotany  BOT4104 / GIS & Computer Literacy  BOT4109 |
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Ecology Option with core and electives

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| **Programme Details : Bachelor of Science Honours in Botany** | | | | | | |
| Title of all modules | Compulsory (C)/Elective (E) | NQF level | Credits | No. of contact hours | Mode of delivery | Module status: Removed/Added/Modified/ Unchanged |
| Project  BOT4106 | C | 8 | 30 | 154 (14 wks x 11hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Scientific methodology  BOT4108 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Modified (6 credits added and content revised) |
| GIS & Computer Literacy  BOT4109 | C | 8 | 10 | 48 (12 wksx4hrs) | Contact | Modified (6 credits reduced, content revised, title changed to GIS) |
| Statistical Methods  BOT4110 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Plant Systematics  BOT4101 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Ecology  BOT4102 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Plant Physiology  BOT4103 | E | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs | Contact | Unchanged |
| Ethnobotany  BOT4104 | E | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Total |  |  | 120 |  |  |  |
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Plant Physiology Option with core and electives

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme Details : Bachelor of Science Honours in Botany** | | | | | | |
| Title of all modules | Compulsory (C)/Elective (E) | NQF level | Credits | No. of contact hours | Mode of delivery | Module status: Removed/Added/Modified/ Unchanged |
| Project  BOT4106 | C | 8 | 30 | 154 (14 wks x 11hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Scientific methodology  BOT4108 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Modified (6 credits added and content revised) |
| Statistical Methods  BOT4110 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Plant Systematics  BOT4101 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Ecology  BOT4102 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Plant Physiology  BOT4103 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs | Contact | Unchanged |
| Ethnobotany  BOT4104 | E | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Conservation Biology  BOT4107 | E | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Total |  |  | 120 |  |  |  |

Plant Biotechnology option with core and electives

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme Details : Bachelor of Science Honours in Botany** | | | | | | |
| Title of all modules | Compulsory (C)/Elective (E) | NQF level | Credits | No. of contact hours | Mode of delivery | Module status: Removed/Added/Modified/ Unchanged |
| Project  BOT4106 | C | 8 | 30 | 154 (14 wks x 11hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Scientific methodology  BOT4108 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Modified (6 credits added and content revised) |
| GIS & Computer Literacy  BOT4109 | E | 8 | 10 | 48 (12 wksx4hrs) | Contact | Modified (6 credits reduced, content revised, title changed to GIS) |
| Statistical Methods  BOT4110 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Plant Systematics  BOT4101 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Plant Physiology  BOT4103 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs | Contact | Unchanged |
| Ethnobotany  BOT4104 | E | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Biotechnology  BOT4105 | C | 8 | 16 | 84 (12 wksx7hrs) | Contact | Unchanged |
| Total |  |  | 120 |  |  |  |

**Question 2a:**

The institution should state how its assessment approach is aligned with the teaching and learning strategy.

**Response:**

**Internal assessment**

Each lecturer sets the assessment and the internal moderator goes through the paper before it is given to the students.

**External assessment**

All external examiners and moderators are first vetted by the post graduate committee and then approved by SENATE.

**Monitoring**

Each lecturer monitors the students’ progress and sends feedback to the department in order to improve the students’ academic performance.

**Validity and reliability of assessment practices**

The departmental examination board is in charge of all the assessment and examination papers.

**Secure and reliable recording of assessment results**

All the results for all the modules are captured using a central ITS. The lecturer in charge thereafter confirms the data.

**Settling of student disputes regarding assessment results**

Students are given ample time to look at their results. Their problems are then addressed.

**Question 2b:**

The allocation of 50% of time for direct contact should be reduced.

**Response**

We have addressed the time allocation for the students and recalculated the time scheduling such that the notional hours for the students is reduced to 342 with a percentage of direct contact time of 28.5. On the other hand, the WIL which was previously zero has been amended to 258 with a percentage of direct contact time of 21.5.

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