The programme focuses on community-orientated primary health care and is offered on Level 2, 3 and 4. This qualification will provide opportunities to students who want to pursue careers in the health field. It is designed to provide both theoretical learning and practical experience in a simulated and real environment. It is SAQA registered.

Career Options
The NC(V) Primary Health provides:
- A generic, academic educational platform for entry into higher education.
- Opportunities to enter a career path on Level 5 in health support programmes such as nursing, social work as well as community care work.

You will be equipped to:
- Work at non-profit organisations, NGO’s and community-based organisations in health.
- Health education and health promotion tasks in crèches, schools and other primary health care settings.
- Work in special care organisations such as HIV and TB organisations.

Programme Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Pass requirement</th>
<th>Credits per level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 First Additional Language (English)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Life Orientation</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 The South African Health Care System</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Public Health</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Health and the Human Being</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Community Orientated Primary Care (COPC)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The three core vocational subjects provide a high degree of specialisation in the health economic sector, whilst the fourth vocational subject (COPC) provides for vocational and/or occupational specialisation in community-orientated primary care.

Focus on Each Subject
The South African Health Care System
This subject encompasses the sum of all organisations, institutions, resources, people and actions of which the primary intent is to promote, restore and maintain health. The health care system includes everyone responsible for good health, from the family in a rural village to the surgeon in an academic hospital. The South African Health Care System aims to equip the student with knowledge and skills to be able to work in different health modalities within the health system.

Public Health
Public Health is the science and art to promote health and wellness, prevent and control disease rather than cure disease through organised and focused efforts at national, international, regional and community levels. This is done by empowering individuals to make informed choices on matters that impact their health and wellness. Public Health is defined as “the collective action taken by society to protect and promote the health of the entire population”. The focus is on the causes of disease and methods for their control.
The subject aims to equip students with basic knowledge of infectious and non-infectious diseases and the skills to identify causes of disease and apply basic principles to prevent further infections, controlling disease from spreading, report suspicious signs and symptoms and encourage treatment.

**Human Body & Mind**
This is the study of the structure and function of the normal healthy body and the fundamental understanding of the human mind. Health and the Human Being explores the way the human body and mind develop throughout the lifespan from birth to old age and death.

**Community Orientated Primary Care (COPC)**
Community Orientated Primary Care is an approach to the knowledge and practice of health care and human well-being. It simultaneously brings personal and individual human health and community medicine together in locally specific contexts in order to improve health outcomes for both individuals and the society in which they live. The subject involves learning about the principles of COPC, the importance of individuals and families as well as the significance of the social structure of society on individual and community health.

**Examination papers** are on all three levels and are set by the DHET. Level 2 and 3 papers are marked internally and students receive statements of results, while Level 4 is marked externally, and a National Certificate Vocational: Primary Health is issued by UMALUSI.

**Admission Requirements**
- Grade 9, 10, 11 pass or a Grade 12 Certificate, or
- NQF Level 1 Adult Education
- The student should be at least 16 years old.

**Duration**
- 3 years full-time (1 year per level)
- Enrolment in January

(Part-time - Not available)