



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

BOTTOM FINANCIAL QUINTILE ADMISSION TARGETS 2020-2024

1. FIRST-TIME ENTERING ADMISSIONS BY FINANCIAL AID

- Admissions by financial aid is tracked by the number of first-time entering undergraduate (FU) students who receive funding through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).
- National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) supports access to, and success in, higher education and training for students from poor and working class families who would otherwise not be able to afford to study.
- The annual admission targets for first-time entering undergraduate students on financial aid has ranged from 25% to 35%.
- Table 5 below shows that the proportion of FU students on NSFAS financial aid increased from 29% (1235) in 2023 to 30% (1382) in 2024.

Table 5: FU Admissions by Financial Aid

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total FU Admissions	4140	4395	3841	4273	4597
FU Admissions on NSFAS	1352	1541	1033	1235	1382
% NSFAS Financial Aid	33%	35%	27%	29%	30%

2. FIRST-TIME ENTERING ADMISSIONS BY SCHOOL POVERTY QUINTILE

- The South African school quintile classification system is a government mechanism used to allocate funding to public schools based on the relative poverty of the community they serve. It was introduced through the South African Schools Act, 84 of 1996 (SASA), as amended, and further regulated by the National Norms and Standards for School Funding (1998).
- Schools are divided into five quintiles (Q1–Q5), ranked from poorest to least poor, according to factors such as income, literacy, and unemployment levels in the surrounding area.
- Quintiles 1 to Quintile 3 schools are non-fee paying schools with learners from low-income households:
 - Quintile 1 (Q1) – Poorest schools, serving the most disadvantaged communities.

- Quintile 2 (Q2) – Very poor schools, though marginally better resourced than Q1.
- Quintile 3 (Q3) – Schools serving lower-middle-income communities.
- The annual admission targets for first-time entering undergraduate students from quintile 1 to quintile 3 schools has ranged from 20% to 30%.
- Table 6 below shows that the proportion of first-time entering undergraduate (FU) students from the lowest quintile schools (Quintiles 1-3) remained the same at 24% in 2023 and 2024, although actual number of students increased from 1030 in 2023 to 1117 in 2024.

Table 6: FU Admissions by School Poverty Quintile

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total FU Admissions	4140	4395	3841	4273	4597
FU Admissions from School Quintiles 1-3	886	1312	960	1030	1117
% School Quintiles 1-3	21%	30%	25%	24%	24%