



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

BOTTOM FINANCIAL QUINTILE STUDENT SUCCESS

2020-2024

1. GRADUATES BY NSFAS FINANCIAL AID

- Graduates by financial aid is tracked by the number of undergraduate graduates who received 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.
- Table 1 below shows that the proportion of NSFAS financial UG graduates remained the same at 24% in 2023 and 2024, although the actual numbers increased from 941 in 2023 to 958 in 2024.

Table 1: NSFAS Financial Aid UG Graduates

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Graduates (UG)	3709	3558	3662	3855	3930
NSFAS Financial Aid Graduates	715	772	854	941	958
% Financial Aid	19%	22%	23%	24%	24%

2. GRADUATES 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.
- Table 2 below shows that the proportion of undergraduate graduates from the lowest quintile schools (Quintiles 1-3) increased from 13% (502) in 2023 to 14% (566) in 2024.

Table 2: UG Graduates by School Poverty Quintile

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Graduates (UG)	3709	3558	3662	3855	3930
Graduates from School Quintiles 1-3	339	366	509	502	566
% School quintiles 1-3	9%	10%	14%	13%	14%