

Skill-up to join SA's economy

TVET colleges are crucial to SA's economy and a vital contribution to reducing the high unemployment rate

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges are at the heart of addressing unemployment and skills development. These higher-level education institutions prepare students from Grade 10 onward for knowledge and practical skills in the working world.

South Africa's TVET colleges are the backbone of South Africa's future workforce and are especially geared towards students with strong practical and technical skills.

South Africa has fifty TVET colleges that provide both theoretical and practical education in over 300 subjects across a wide range of jobs. TVET colleges also offer the fastest, most cost-effective and most efficient way to enter the workplace in the shortest time.

SA's TVET colleges are viewed as institutions of choice by the Department of Higher Education, which also offers government grants through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.

Students have the choice of learning in one of the 200 TVET campuses across the nine provinces in

addition to over 300 registered private colleges, all of which offer education and training in preparation for skilled employment.

TVET colleges will enrol over 550 000 students this year. The initial goal was to build college capacity to 2.5-million by 2030, indicating the importance that government puts on this skilling sector. However, this scheme has fallen behind since Covid-19.

"We are working hard to accelerate our TVET sector," says Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology. Strategies are in place to provide subsidised financial support to all students and to provide 100 000 work-based opportunities for students to complete their training."

Nzimande also announced a scheme to fast-track innovation by twinning the Department of Science and Innovation with the Department of Higher Education, to work with TVET colleges to boost innovation projects. The two departments will collaborate to promote entrepreneurship.

TVET colleges offer a vast array of



Vhembe TVET College, Makwarela Campus in Limpopo. / Vhembe TVET College

courses with broad appeal that include:

Finance; Economics and Accounting; Management; Tourism; Beauty, skin, and hair; Electrical Infrastructure Construction; Engineering and Related Design; Agriculture; Health; Civil Engineering and Building Construction; Drawing Office Practice; Hospitality; Education and Development; Information Technology and Computer Science; Marketing; Mechatronics; Process Instrumentation; Process Plant Operations; Safety in Society; Plumbing; Nursing; Upholstery and Administration.

The skilled trade qualifications provided by colleges also provide jobs that are always in high demand like electrical work, plumbing, technical applications, maintenance, hairdressing, secretarial and beauty.

There are many benefits in choosing a TVET or Community College to earn a diploma or certificate, or one of the NFQ qualifications offered:

- College entrance is from Grade 10.
- Most matric results accepted.
- Finance is available to families who

earn less than R350 000 a month.

- Courses are shorter, usually 18 months to 36 months.
- Courses include educational, technical, and theoretical skills and are hands-on.
- Qualifications can be completed through on-the-job training.
- TVET courses are suited to those who prefer practice over theory.
- They give an earlier start to earning potential, and provide a stepping-stone to further education.
- South Africa has a trades skills shortage.

The future economy is dependent on TVET graduates who are highly skilled for work placement and this is indicated by the number of college graduates who successfully enter the job market.

Prospective students who are still seeking space for an entry-level course should contact their colleges of choice soonest for enrolment in 2023. With four million applications for 163 000 places at universities, many applicants can still follow their career of choice at college.

THE PROCESS OF APPLYING AT A TVET IN SA



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Interested Colleges Email
Gerald Williamson:
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Follow these 5 easy steps to apply at a TVET in South Africa



GO TO THE COLLEGE WEBSITE:
Have enough data or use a wi-fi location
Browse the site and look for information on new applications
Have support documents in digital format to upload.



READ THE INSTRUCTIONS A NUMBER OF TIMES:
Read the instructions a few times - very slowly Watch the supporting information videos (if any).



CAREER GUIDANCE:
Some colleges will request that you complete an online Career Guidance Test to ensure that you make an informed decision. Be on the lookout for the instruction.



COMPLETE THE PLACEMENT TEST IN FULL:
You may spend up to two hours (or less) completing an online Placement test (some colleges - check) Have enough data - do not rush - Do not skip steps - incompletes will not be accepted.



UPLOAD:
Certified Birth Certificate and ID Document (or proof of your pending application for ID or Passport).
Certified certificates/Qualifications.
Certified recent Academic results.

HOT TIP: The Placement test demand complete honesty and will assist you in choosing the right course. You will not be excluded based on the results. Cheating may result in wrong advice and possible exclusion. **Use your cellphone to complete the test.**

Vhembe TVET College... breaking barriers



Vhembe TVET College offers engineering, business, agricultural and occupational programmes under the National Certificate Vocational and NATED.

Vhembe TVET College is one of 50 public TVET Colleges in South Africa and was established in 1963 under the name Sibasa Ambag Bantu Skool and was known for offering vocational training.

The College has seven campuses, which are: Makwarela, Mavhoi, Mashamba, Shingwedzi, Thengwe, Tshisimani and Musina.

Recently, the College opened the Makhado Hospitality Centre with the core function of offering training to Hospitality and Tourism students.

The College offers a variety of programmes under National Certificate Vocational (NCV) and NATED. We offer Engineering Studies, Business Studies, Occupational Programmes and Agricultural Courses.

The College offers courses under Business Studies, which allow students to focus on specialities such as Human Resource Management, Marketing, Accountancy, Finance and Hospitality. Our Engineering programmes assist students in understanding how to constantly change the world with innovations and solutions that affect everyone's life.

We also offer distance learning to cater for all youth and adults who can not be registered to attend daily.

Through successful partnerships, the College has managed to launch facilities that will improve the skills and quality of our graduates. These include centres like the 4IR lab, Disability Centre, HP Life Centre (entrepreneurship), Clothing Plant (workplace) and Greenhouses.

The College also has Mashamba Campus, which specialises in Primary Agriculture and Farming and is known for affording its students on-the-job experience as they have livestock and poultry as well as enough land to farm.

The College turned 60 years on the 1st of January 2023, and as it celebrates this achievement, the College pledges to continue to equip its students with leadership and service skills to ensure it produces competent industry leaders with the relevant employability skills.

For more information about what our College has to offer, please visit our website on www.vhembecollege.edu.za