



NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (NQF 4)

PLANT PRODUCTION

AGRONOMY & HORTICULTURE



NATIONAL CERTIFICATE PLANT PRODUCTION

COURSE OVERVIEW

National Certificate: Plant Production | NQF 4, 142 Credits

QUALIFICATION RULES

The National Certificate in Plant Production is an academic online programme and is made up of a planned combination of learning outcomes that have a defined purpose and will provide qualifying learners with applied competence and a basis for further learning.

The qualification is made up of Unit Standards that are classified as Fundamental, Core and Elective. A minimum of 140 credits is required to complete the qualification.

In this qualification the credits are allocated as follows:

Fundamental:	68 credits:	49%
Core:	59 credits:	41%
Electives:	15 credits:	10%
Total:	142 credits:	100%

PRE-REQUISITES

Learners accessing this qualification are assumed to be competent in:

- Communication at NQF Level 2
- Mathematical Literacy at NQF Level 2
- Agricultural activities at NQF 3

WORKPLACE RELEVANCE

The **National Certificate: Plant Production NQF 4 (SAQA ID 49009)** qualification is designed to meet the needs of those learners who intend to set up or have already set up their own ventures, would like to find formal employment in the primary agricultural sector, or who would like to extend their studies, especially to the level of Junior Farm Manager.

Assessment of the competencies and knowledge in the qualification will be done in the context of the above learning outcomes.

The range of typical learners that will enter this qualification will vary and includes:

- Farm operators who wish to progress to the level of junior farm manager;
- Learners in possession of different levels of practical experience in farming operations, which will be assessed and RPL'ed;
- School leavers (Gr. 12) from agricultural schools; and
- Learners may come from both genders.

WHAT YOU STUDY

1. Communication in the workplace



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2. Basic computer skills
3. Applied Mathematics and Statistics I
4. Agricultural Sciences I
5. Introduction to Agri-Engineering Technology I
6. Agricultural management I
7. Plant Production I

CURRICULUM LAYOUT

Introductory Module

- Induction Course: Introduction to Agripedia

Module 1: Communication skills

- Garcias: Introduction to the Mental Approach to Farming
- Learning approach and processes
- Engage in sustained oral communication and evaluate spoken texts
- Apply comprehension skills to engage written texts in a business environment/use language and communication in occupational learning programmes
- Interpret a variety of literary texts / interpret and use information from texts
- Accommodate audience and context needs in oral communication & apply comprehension skills to engage oral texts in a business environment
- Write texts for a range of communicative contexts. Read, analyse and respond to a variety of texts.
- The Farm Plan: Implementing integrated farm layout and site selection

Module 2: Basic computer skills

- Work with spreadsheets & Ensure spreadsheet integrity to enhance reliability
- Manage electronic mail in a business environment
- Review and create documents using a Graphical User Interface (GUI)-based word processor
- Use computer technology to research a computer topic & demonstrate an understanding of the principles of the internet and the world-wide-web

Module 3: Applied Mathematics and Statistics I

- Introduction to Biometry and Mathematical Principles
- Statistical probabilities in hypothesis testing, confidence intervals & variances
- Implement and interpret a data collection plan



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- Use mathematics to investigate and monitor financial aspects
- Solve problems in sequences and series and simulated situations
- Patterns and Inverses of functions
- Complex numbers in non-trivial situations

Module 4: Agricultural Sciences

- Ecology and Agro-Ecology
- Farming economics and agri-economic factors
- History of agricultural marketing
- Basic agricultural genetics
- Basic agricultural chemistry
- Introduction to Soil Sciences and geology
- Animal and plant biological concepts

Module 5: Introduction to Agri Engineering and Technology

- Agricultural safety
- Structural materials
- Energy
- Construction processes
- Tools and Equipment
- Irrigation and water supply
- Drawings
- Measurement, calculations and calibrations

Module 6: Agricultural Management I

- Introduction to farm management
- Agricultural Economics I: Introduction to Marketing and Economics ○
Integrate marketing plans with business processes
- *Management of Natural and Sustainable Resources* ○ *Design a natural resource management plan* ○ *Manage and control resources in a sustainable manner* ○ *Financial management in the agri-business* ○ *Food Safety and Quality Management Systems* ○ *Human Resource Management*

Module 7: Plant Production I

- Introduction to Plant Production



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- Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition
- Plant Biology
- Plant Manipulation methods
- Propagation of plants
- Permaculture
- Organic Certification
- Crops in Hydroponics
- Pests and Weed control
- Harvesting plan
- Principles of Agronomy
- Grazing and Pasture Science
- Agro Chemicals and Chemical Applications

METHODOLOGY

The National Certificate in Plant Production is presented as an exciting e-learning programme. This is done through own studies, reading and the online submission of assignments.

This is a participatory learning programme, where the student will also be able to communicate with fellow students across the country via, Agri-social, our social media platform. This platform allows for questions to be discussed, and the opportunity to upload and share interesting articles, images, and videos.

Throughout the academic year, lecturers will be available on the Agri-social platform. They are also readily accessible via email, SMS, WhatsApp or direct telephonic contact.

Theoretical studies are completed through our online Agri-learn platform and the student is provided with a practical logbook to achieve practical competencies and experiences in the student's workplace. Where needed, students will be assisted towards practical competence through our work placement programme.

ACADEMIC FEES

The following academic fees are applicable for the 2025/2026 academic year:



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Full time residential students:

Payment Structure 1:	Year 1 (2025): R 160 000	Year 2 (2026): R160 000
At registration:	R 3 000	R 3 000
After Registration – Once off Payment	R 157 000	R 157 000

Payment Structure 2:	Year 1 (2025): R 160 000	Year 2 (2026): R160 000
With registration:	R 3 000	R 3 000
After registration – First semester:	R 78 500	R 78 500
Second semester:	R78 500	R 78 500

Payment Structure 3:	Year 1 (2025): R 160 000	Year 2 (2026): R160 000
With registration:	R 3 000	R 3 000
After registration – 10x Monthly payments	R 15 700	R 15 700

Day Students (Not living on campus on a permanent basis):

Payment Structure 1:	Year 1 (2025): R 160 000	Year 2 (2026): R160 000
At registration:	R 3 000	R 3 000
After Registration – Once off Payment	R 65 000	R 65 000

Payment Structure 2:	Year 1 (2025): R 160 000	Year 2 (2026): R160 000
With registration:	R 3 000	R 3 000
After registration – First semester:	R 31 000	R 31 000
Second semester:	R31 000	R 31 000

Payment Structure 3:	Year 1 (2025): R 160 000	Year 2 (2026): R160 000
With registration:	R 3 000	R 3 000
After registration – 10x Monthly payments	R 6 200	R 6 200

Note: The costs for transport, meals and accommodation for possible practical training outside Bloemfontein are not included in the academic costs and will be discussed with students in advance as applicable for practical training.



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ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT:

If the student is not in a financial position to pay the full amount per semester, written application for the monthly payment of modules can be addressed to:

The financial Director : admin@mahlubini.africa

WHY MAHLUBINI AGRICULTURE COLLEGE?

Situated in the vibrant town of Cofimvaba, Eastern Cape, Mahlubini College is excited to welcome you to our community of future agricultural leaders. We offer accredited NQF 4 and NQF 5 programmes designed to give you the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the dynamic world of agriculture. Whether you're passionate about sustainable farming, innovation, or community development, Mahlubini College is the place where your journey begins.

Join us, and together, let's grow Africa's future!

TO FIND OUT MORE:

www.mahlubini.africa

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