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Headline: [WATCH] The right people are getting into medical school: More than 90% of medical students pass

Blurb: The pass rate for medical students is much higher than for other high entry requirement degrees such as engineering and biology. This video explains why.

Bullets:

- Graduation rates for medical school are much higher than for other degrees with high entry requirements such as engineering and the sciences.
- The drop-out rates are also unusually low for medical school, despite it being such a long and taxing degree.
- A student's race does play a role in the admissions process, but it doesn't mean medical schools are admitting Black and Coloured students who aren't up to scratch.

Byline: Yolanda Mdzeke, Jesse Copelyn

Are South Africa's medical schools admitting students who aren't up to scratch?

No.

The pass rate for medical school is much higher than for other degrees.

More than two thirds of medical school students finish their degrees in the minimum six years.

91% finish after 10 years.

Compare that with other degrees with high entry requirements.

Less than a quarter of engineering students finish their degrees in the minimum time. Only 65% finish after 10 years.

And what about physics and biology degrees? These qualifications take three or four years to complete. A mere 35% of students graduate after four years.

After a decade, just under three-quarters would have completed their course.

The drop-out rate is also unusually low for medical students.

Only 5% of those who started their medical degrees in 2008 had dropped out a decade later.

That's much lower than it is for engineering and science students.

About one in five of them don't finish their studies.

Medical schools reserve a certain number of places for Black and coloured students to make sure the country's doctors are representative of most patients.

But such policies aren't resulting in academically unequipped students getting a place in medical school.

Source: Department of Higher Education and Training. Read the script for a full breakdown of the statistics used.

This story was produced by the [Bhekisisa Centre for Health Journalism](#). Sign up for the [newsletter](#).