



SIGNATURE THEME 2

One Health

Human, Animal, and Ecological Health Futures

One Health builds on Walter Sisulu's established position in the health sciences and extends it into an interdependent framework joining human, animal, and environmental health. Climate instability, emerging zoonotic disease, and ecological degradation each move across those boundaries, and so must the response. The theme integrates health sciences, environmental studies, agriculture, veterinary science, data analytics, and the social sciences, generating solutions rooted in the realities of the communities Walter Sisulu serves. It builds on existing clinical training platforms across the Eastern Cape, where students already learn in district hospitals and rural clinics, and extends that reach to the animal and environmental conditions that shape human health.

THIS SIGNATURE THEME POSITIONS WALTER SISULU TO:

- Strengthen primary and community health systems, particularly in rural and under-served districts.
- Address disease prevention across the human, animal, and environmental interface, where most new epidemics begin.
- Improve health governance, surveillance, and the implementation of policy where capacity is thinnest.
- Promote sustainable development through preventive, systems-based interventions.

THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

Human, animal, and environment

Disease prevention

Ecosystem health

Science, policy, and practice

What each faculty contributes to this Signature Theme

ONE HEALTH is delivered through Walter Sisulu's existing academic strengths. Set out under each faculty below are the disciplines, capabilities, and lines of work that faculty brings to the theme. Read together, they show how a single theme mobilises all seven faculties at once.

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Primary and rural clinical care, infectious disease, maternal and child health, and the training of practitioners who stay in the districts that need them.

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Ecosystem and environmental health, water quality, zoonotic pathways, and the microbiology underpinning disease surveillance.

Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

Health data platforms, outbreak surveillance and modelling, sanitation and water infrastructure, and digital tools for remote clinical support.

Faculty of Law, Humanities and Social Sciences

Behavioural and social determinants of wellbeing, health rights and ethics, and the cultural knowledge that shapes how care is sought and given.

Faculty of Management and Public Administration Sciences

Cross-sector health governance, district health management, and the coordination of services across health, agriculture, and environment.

Faculty of Economics and Financial Sciences

Health system financing and sustainability, the economics of prevention, and the cost of ecological damage to public health.

Faculty of Education

Health and environmental literacy in schools, and teacher development that builds preventive habits early.

