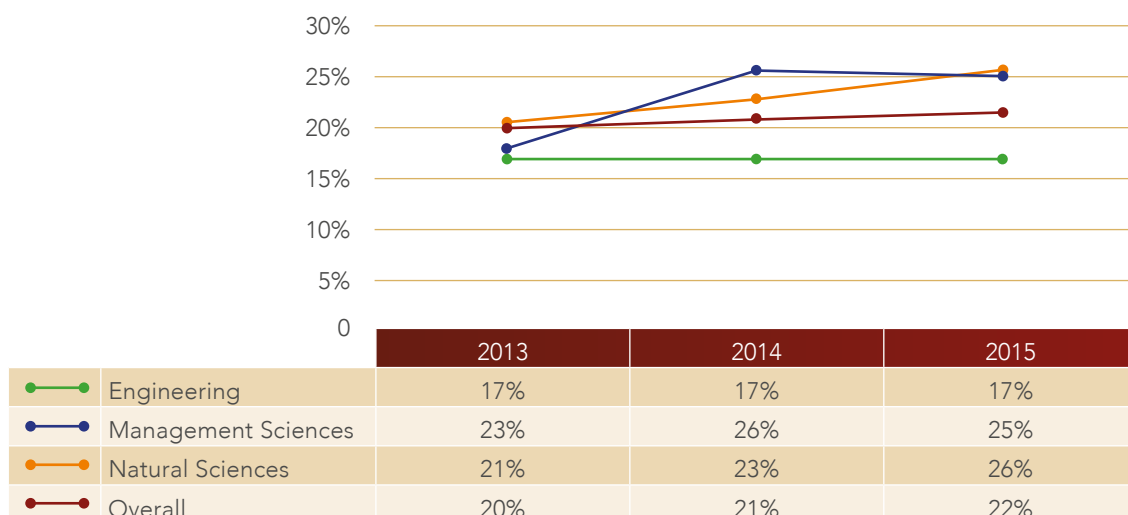


Figure 5.11 below shows an overall increase in Graduation Rates from 20% in 2013 to 22% in 2015. Graduation Rates in the Faculty of Engineering remained below the institution's rate at 17% from 2013 through 2015.

Figure 5.11: Graduation Rates by Faculty



5.5 Significant Developments And Achievements In Community Engagement

Background

At Mangosuthu University of Technology, Community Engagement (CE) encompasses all planned activities that the University and the community engage in for the benefit of both entities, with the aim of improving the socio-economic conditions of the targeted communities as well as presenting opportunities for the University to enhance its teaching, learning and research capacities. A community is defined as any external interest group that could potentially participate in the community engagement activities of the institution.

Community Engagement has four interlinked components, namely, Community Outreach, Community Based Research, Student Volunteerism and Community Development. The Institute for Rural Development and Community Engagement (IRDCE) is responsible for co-ordinating all planned CE projects guided by the MUT Community Engagement Conceptual Framework.

The goal of CE is to contribute towards the socio-economic advancement of the previously disadvantaged communities. The objectives are to implement and coordinate community engagement activities according to the CE framework as well as integrate community engagement into teaching and learning and applied research.

Community Outreach

During the first semester of 2015, twenty educators from Isidingo, Ndongeni, Zimisele, Saw Pits, Mgada and Sibambane Zulu schools received free Basic Computer Literacy training with assistance from lecturers and student volunteers the Departments of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Human Resources Management. Also, two educators and 12 Grades 3 and 4 learners from Esiphukwini Junior Primary School were trained on seedbed preparation. The project was implemented in collaboration with Mbumbulu District's KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture.

On the 8th of September 2015, MUT collaborated with the eThekweni Municipality in the commemoration of the International Literacy Day (ILD). During the build-up