



**CAPE AUDIO COLLEGE – THE INSTITUTE OF SOUND
TECHNOLOGY**

2010

**THE ALLIGNMENT OF PROGRAMS
AND
QUALIFICATIONS
TO THE NEW NQF AND THE COUNCIL ON HIGHER
EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
POLICY**

ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAMS AND QUALIFICATIONS POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all parties and role players are informed of and aware of the transitional processes that CAPE AUDIO COLLEGE is to undergo to align the programs and qualifications on offer to the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and to comply with the Higher Education Quality committee (HEQC) and Council on Higher Education (CHE) in conjunction with SAQA and the department of Education.

2. Preamble

The minister of education Grace Pandor published *The Higher Education Qualifications Framework* which has been designed to meet demanding challenges facing the higher education system in the 21st century. It will guide higher education institutions in the development of programs and qualifications that provide graduates with intellectual capabilities and skills that can both enrich society and empower themselves.

3. Implications on CAPE AUDIO COLLEGE qualifications structure

In terms of *The Higher Education Qualifications Framework* the Higher education Qualification Descriptors and the required credits have changed. The implication of this is that in order to get the CHE accreditation for a program and the said program registered with SAQA it must be aligned with the HEQF. In short a *DIPLOMA* now requires 360 credits which must be completed in 3 years. A one year course (program) now can only offer 120 credits which in terms of the HEQF is a *HIGHER CERTIFICATE* qualification. A further year of study (120 credits) will result in the qualification *ADVANCED CERTIFICATE* being awarded. This means that our flagship One Year Diploma Course in Audio Engineering no longer is aligned to the requirements of DOE, SAQA and HEQC and the qualification descriptors of CAPE AUDIO COLLEGE existing programs, namely, Diploma in Audio Engineering (1 Year) and Advanced Diploma in Audio Engineering (2nd Year) have to change.

4. The Transition

The 1 year diploma in Audio Engineering will become:

HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN AUDIO ENGINEERING

The second year Advanced Diploma in Audio Engineering will become:

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN AUDIO ENGINEERING

A third year will be introduced offering an additional 120 credits of study and in conjunction with the credits of the certificate courses forms:

DIPLOMA IN AUDIO ENGINEERING

5. Implementation

The transition to the new qualifications will be implemented as follows:

Students enrolled in January 2010 CAC 1 year Diploma in Audio Engineering will receive the Diploma.

Students enrolled in the January 2010 second year Advanced Diploma in Audio Engineering will receive an advanced Diploma.

Students enrolled in January 2011 CAC 1 year Diploma in Audio Engineering will receive the Diploma. If the program becomes accredited before the course commences (2011) students enrolled on this course will also receive the national Higher Certificate in Audio Engineering .

Any students from this intake that continue and do the second year course in 2012 will receive the Advanced Certificate in Audio Engineering (If accredited) and the Advanced Diploma from Cape Audio College.

Students enrolled in January 2011 CAC second year Advanced Diploma in Audio Engineering will receive the Advanced Diploma. If the program becomes accredited before the course commences (2011) students enrolled on this course will also receive the national Advanced Certificate in Audio Engineering .

Any student enrolling from the July intake 2011 onwards will fall into the new HEQF qualifications descriptors and receive qualifications as follows:

First year – National Higher Certificate in Audio Engineering

Second Year – National Advanced certificate in Audio Engineering

Third Year – National Diploma in Audio Engineering

6. HEQF Descripors

Below are the qualification descriptors as found on the HEQF

HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATION DESCRIPTORS

Higher Certificate

Type specifications

NQF Exit Level 5

Minimum total credits: 120

Minimum credits at LevelS: 120

Designators

Not applicable

Qualifiers

Specific, maximum two

Example: Higher Certificate in Tourism in Eco-Tourism

Abbreviations

H. Cert. (Tourism), H. Cert. (Tourism) (Eco-tourism)

Purpose and characteristics

This is an entry-level higher education qualification. The qualification is primarily vocational, or industry oriented. The qualification also serves to provide students with the basic introductory knowledge, cognitive and conceptual tools and practical techniques for further higher education studies in their chosen field of study. The knowledge emphasises general principles and application. This qualification signifies that the student has attained a basic level of higher education knowledge and competence in a particular field or occupation and is capable of applying such knowledge and competence in an occupation or role in the workplace. The Higher Certificate typically includes a simulated work experience or work integrated learning (WIL) component.

Minimum admission requirements

The minimum entry requirement is the National Senior Certificate with appropriate

subject combinations and levels of achievement as defined in the Minister's policy,

Minimum Admission Requirements or Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's

Degree Programmes Requiring a National Senior Certificate, Government Gazette,

Vol. 482, No. 27961, 18 August 2005.

Progression

Completion of the Higher Certificate meets the minimum entry requirement for admission to an appropriate Advanced Certificate. Accumulated credits may also be presented for admission into a cognate Diploma. A qualification may not be

awarded for early exit from a Higher Certificate programme.

Advanced Certificate

Type specifications

NQF Exit Level: 6

Minimum total credits: 120

Minimum credits at Level 6: 120

Designators

Not applicable

Qualifiers

Specific, maximum two

Example: Advanced Certificate in Real Estate in Property Marketing

Abbreviations

Adv, Cert. (Real Estate), Adv. Cert. (Real Estate) (Property Marketing)

Purpose and characteristics

This qualification is primarily vocational, or industry oriented. The knowledge emphasises general principles and application or technology transfer. The qualification provides students with a sound knowledge base in a particular field or discipline and the ability to apply their knowledge and skills to particular career or professional contexts, while equipping them to undertake more specialised and intensive learning. Programmes leading to this qualification tend to have a strong vocational, professional or career focus and holders of this qualification are normally prepared to enter a specific niche in the labor market. Advanced Certificate programmes typically include a simulated work experience or work integrated learning (WIL) component.

Minimum admission requirements

The minimum entry requirement is a Higher Certificate in the appropriate field.

Progression

Completion of the Advanced Certificate meets the minimum entry requirement into a cognate Diploma or Bachelor's Degree. Accumulated credits may also be presented for admission into cognate Diploma or Bachelor's degree programmes. A qualification may not be awarded for early exit from an Advanced Certificate programme.

Diploma

Type specifications

NQF Exit Level: 6

Minimum total credits: 360

Minimum credits at Level 7: 60

Maximum total credits at Level 5: 120

Designators

Not applicable

Qualifiers

Specific, maximum two

Example: Diploma in Management in Finance

Abbreviations

Dip. (Management), Dip. (Management) (Finance)

Purpose and characteristics

This qualification is primarily professional, vocational or industry specific. The knowledge emphasises general principles and application. The purpose of the Diploma is to develop graduates who can demonstrate focused knowledge and skills in a particular field. Typically they will have gained experience in applying such knowledge and skills in a workplace context. A depth and specialisation of knowledge, together with practical skills and experience in the workplace, enable successful students to enter a number of career paths and to apply their learning to particular employment contexts from the outset. Vocational diploma programmes typically include a simulated work experience or work integrated learning (WIL) component.

Minimum admission requirements

The minimum entry requirement *is* the National Senior Certificate with appropriate

subject combinations and levels of achievement, as defined in the Minister's policy, *Minimum Admission Requirements for Higher Certificate/ Diploma and Bachelor's Degree Programmes Requiring a National Senior Certificate*, Government Gazette, Vol. 482, No. 27961, 18 August 2005. Alternatively a Higher Certificate or Advanced Certificate in a cognate field will satisfy the minimum requirement.

Progression

Completion of a Diploma meets the minimum entry requirement for admission to an Advanced Diploma or to a Bachelor's degree. Accumulated credits may also be presented for admission into a cognate Bachelor's Degree programme. A qualification may not be awarded for early exit from a Diploma programme.

