

***FACULTY OF BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT
SCIENCES***

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITING AND FINANCIAL
INFORMATION SYSTEMS

DEPARTMENT OF COST AND MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND TAXATION

Dear Student

INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS QUALIFICATIONS AND ARTICULATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT QUALIFICATIONS IN THE ABOVE THREE DEPARTMENTS

The revised South African Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework, (HEQSF) approved by the Minister of Higher Education and Training in 2013, resulted in the design of new qualifications to overcome articulation barriers caused by the former separate and parallel qualifications structures for universities (now Universities of Technology). As a result, certain qualifications are to be replaced by new qualifications, for example, BTech qualifications are replaced by the Advanced Diplomas at National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level 7, while some new qualification variants are being introduced, such as the Postgraduate Diploma. The objective of the revised HEQSF (2013) was to provide greater flexibility, between pathways for general, vocational and professional qualifications.

In relation to the above, the Minister of Higher Education and Training stipulated that “...the last date for first time entering students enrolling in academic programmes that are not aligned with the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework... was 31st December 2019.” (Government Gazette No. 40123, Vol. 1636, July 2016). This means that there are no new students who enrolls into academic programmes that are not HEQSF aligned from 1st of January 2020 onwards.

The implementation of the new suite of qualifications commenced in January 2020.

One of the new qualifications is the DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTANCY which replaces the former combined package of the NATIONAL HIGHER CERTIFICATE (NHC) plus NATIONAL DIPLOMA (ND), and was introduced as from 1 January 2020. Students who were registered in 2019 will be allowed to repeat subjects of the NHC and the ND in Accountancy until 2023 (mainstream students) and 2024 (ECP students).

This new DIPLOMA, together with its progression route to the doctoral degree (refer table on Annexure A), replaces the old NATIONAL HIGHER CERTIFICATES and NATIONAL DIPLOMAS, and is registered on the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) as CPUTs formal 3-year diploma qualification. No university in South Africa will offer the discontinued ND qualifications in future, as it will be phased out, together with the BTech, MTech and DTech.

It is important to note that the phase out period for NHC and the ND will end in 2024. Furthermore, NHC first year subjects were only offered full-time during 2020, while NHC 2nd year subjects will be offered full-time during both 2020 and 2021. Thereafter it will only be offered part-time until final phase out in 2024. Also important to note, is that the Co-operative subject will no longer be offered. **Most important to note is that the option to transition into the new Diploma was a once-off SENEX approval for the 2019 cohort of**

students and had to be exercised before the closing of the registration period for the 2020 academic year.

A student who is currently on a study break or a returning student who has not yet completed their qualification...

Students who are returning to complete their qualification (the NHC: Accountancy or NHC: Financial Information Systems) may continue with the qualification if it is still offered at the time of their return. If the qualification has been phased out (2024), they should contact the departmental administrator to discuss options for registration. ***The normal recognition rules will apply for any NHC student that wishes to apply for the Diploma in Accountancy as from 2021.***

The purpose of the revised Diploma in Accountancy

The new Diploma in Accountancy provides the prospective students with a wide basis of knowledge and is closely aligned with leading Accountancy professional bodies. As such, the new Diploma was designed to satisfy the foundation educational requirements of The South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA), The Institute of Internal Auditing (IIA) and The South African Institute of Tax Practitioners (SAIT).

The new diploma was also designed in preparation of the fourth industrial revolution by preparing students for a workplace fully integrated with information technology. The most significant improvement to the new diploma (on the range of current national higher certificates (NHCs) and national diplomas (NDs)) is that the Accounting Information Systems component has been afforded much greater prominence in the syllabus, to equip students with critical skills necessary to cope with a rapidly evolving industry.

The diploma is a rounded qualification which will enable graduates to pursue a career in Accounting at the technician level. Those individuals though who wish to continue their studies could articulate to the Advanced Diploma in Accountancy or Advanced Diploma in Internal Auditing, should the minimum admission requirements be met.



Signed: _____ Date: 28 May 2020
Professor Jobo Dubihlela (Head of Department: Internal Auditing and Financial Information Systems)



Signed: _____ Date: 28 May 2020
Professor Lawrence Obokoh (Head of Department: Cost and Management Accounting)



Signed: _____ Date: 28 May 2020
Ms W Martin (Acting Head of Department: Financial Accounting and Taxation)

ANNEXURE A: What is the difference between the old qualifications and the new?

The following table compares the old (non-HEQSF-aligned) qualifications with the new (HEQSF-aligned), with regard to NQF level, qualification types and credit values:

Non – HEQSF Aligned Qualifications		HEQSF Aligned Qualifications	
Qualification type and credits	NQF level	Qualification type and credits	NQF level
Doctor Technologiae (D Tech: Internal Auditing) (240 credits)	NQF level 8	Doctor of Commerce in Internal Auditing (360 credits)	NQF level 10
Magister Technologiae (M Tech: Internal Auditing) (120 credits)	NQF level 8	Master of Internal Auditing (180 credits)	NQF level 9
Magister Technologiae (M Tech: Management Accounting) (120 credits)	NQF level 8	Master of Management Accounting (180 credits)	NQF level 9
No equivalent Non-HEQSF aligned qualification exists		Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Taxation (120 credits)	NQF level 8
No equivalent Non-HEQSF aligned qualification exists		Postgraduate Diploma in Internal Auditing (120 credits)	NQF level 8
No equivalent Non-HEQSF aligned qualification exists		Postgraduate Diploma in Management Accounting (120 credits)	NQF level 8
No equivalent Non-HEQSF aligned qualification exists		Advanced Diploma in Internal Auditing (Subject to approval) (120 credits)	NQF level 7
No equivalent Non-HEQSF aligned qualification exists		Advanced Diploma in Accountancy (Subject to approval) (120 credits)	NQF level 7

<p>Baccalaureus Technologiae (B Tech: Cost and Management Accounting or Internal Auditing or Financial Information Systems or Taxation) (120 credits)</p>	<p>NQF level 7</p>	<p>No equivalent HEQSF aligned qualification exists</p>	
<p>National Diploma (ND: Accounting or Financial Information Systems or Internal Auditing or Cost and Management Accounting) (120 credits)</p>	<p>NQF level 6</p>	<p>Diploma in Accountancy (368 credits) (FIRST INTAKE 2020)</p>	<p>NQF level 6</p>
<p>National Higher Certificate in Accountancy or Financial information systems (240 credits)</p>	<p>NQF level 6</p>	<p>No equivalent HEQSF aligned qualification exists</p>	