

**FACULTY OF BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT SCIENCES**

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Department: Operations Management

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Dear Students

Introduction of the new HEQSF-aligned Diploma in 2017

Diploma in Operations Management

The revised South African Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework, (HEQSF) approved by the Minister of Higher Education and Training in 2012, has resulted in the coming-into-being of new qualifications designed to overcome articulation barriers caused by the former separate and parallel qualifications structures for universities and the former technikons (now Universities of Technology). As a result, certain qualifications have been replaced by others, while new qualification variants have been introduced, in order to provide greater flexibility, in particular, in relation to the pathways for vocational and professional qualifications.

In relation to the above, the Minister of Higher Education and Training has 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..." is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

(Government Gazette No. 40123, Vol. 1636, July 2016)

Implementation of the new suite of qualifications will commence in 2017, with the introduction of the Diploma in OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT, which replaces the National Diploma in OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT, and will articulate to the Advanced Diploma. In South Africa, future natural progression within the higher education vocational and professional stream of qualifications will be as follows:

NEW QUALIFICATION	
NQF level (exit level)	Qualification Name
6	Diploma
7	Advanced Diploma
8	Postgraduate Diploma
9	Professional Master's degree
10	Professional Doctoral degree

**Diploma and National Diploma**

The new DIPLOMA replaces the former NATIONAL DIPLOMA, and will be introduced to all first-time registering students as from 1 Jan 2017.

1) What is the difference between the old National Diploma, and the Diploma?

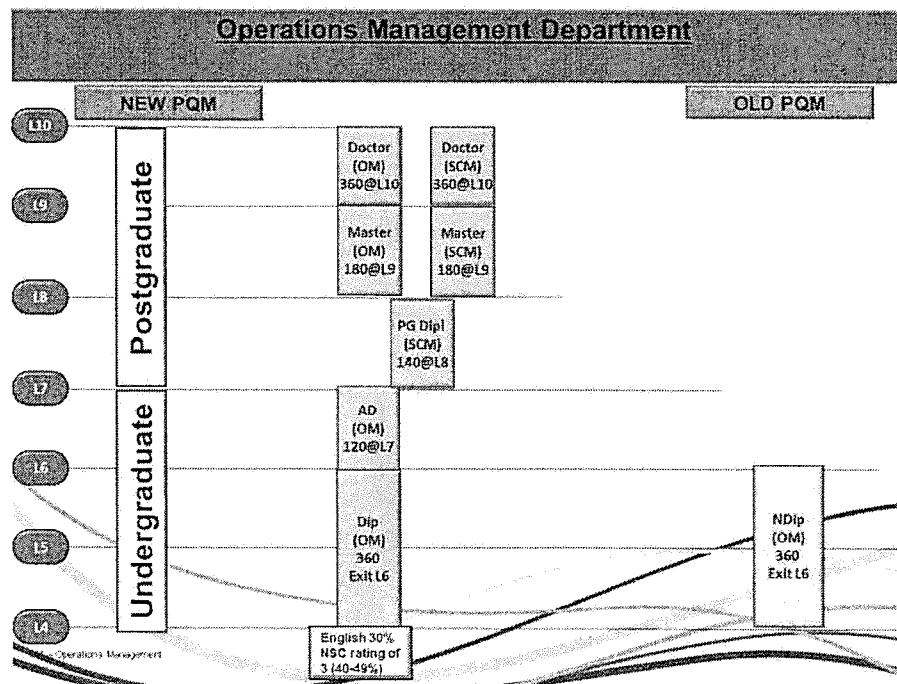
Have a look at the following comparison of the curriculum specification criteria of the two qualifications for Operations Management:

Criteria	National Diploma	Diploma
Entry Requirement	NQF Level 4 qualification e.g. Matric	NQF Level 4 qualification e.g. Matric
Minimum Duration	3 years	3 years
Number of Credits	360	360
Exit level	NQF level 6	NQF level 6

As is apparent, there is no significant difference between the old and new diplomas, except in the name. There are compelling reasons for this change in name – one of them relating to increased global student-mobility and international comparability. However, we have made use of the opportunity of accrediting a new programme by renewing its syllabus. You will therefore note certain minor changes in the subject offerings. It is important to note the following:

The new DIPLOMA (Dip) replaces the old NATIONAL DIPLOMA (ND), and is registered on the South African Higher Education Qualifications Framework as the country’s formal 3-year diploma qualification. No university in South Africa will offer the discontinued ND in future, as it will be phased out, together with the BTech, MTech and DTech.

The PQM for the Operations Management department is illustrated below. Students can now progress from the Diploma in Operations Management to the Advanced Diploma, followed by the Post Graduate Diploma right up to the Doctorate level.



How will this impact on my studies as from 2017?

### FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

If you are a first time, 1<sup>st</sup> year student who registered for the first time this year (2017), you will be placed on the new (Dip) pathway with immediate effect.

If you are repeating your first year, you will be placed on the new (Dip) pathway with immediate effect

### SECOND AND THIRD YEAR STUDENTS

If you are a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year student, or have failed last year, the following options are available to you:

#### Option A – Phase out of old qualification.

You may choose to continue along the old pathway. We will make the necessary arrangements for you to complete this course (ND).

Implications: Please note that this will mean that you will graduate with the old ND (National Diploma), which will be obsolete by 2020.

#### Option B – Transfer

You may choose to transfer to the new pathway with immediate effect. This will mean that you will have to accommodate some changes to the syllabus that have been introduced in the new diploma. Firstly, consider the difference between the old and the new:

OLD SUBJECT CODE	EXISTING SUBJECT NAME 2016	NEW SUBJECT CODE	NEW SUBJECT NAME 2017
<b>YEAR 1</b>			
PRB100S	OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT 1	PRB150S	OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT 1
OEF100S	ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS 1	OEF150S	ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS 1
PBT100S	OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES 1	PBT150S	OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES 1
EUC102S	END USER COMPUTING	BCA159S	BUSINESS COMPUTER APPLICATIONS <sup>1</sup>
LLA101S	LABOUR LAW	CMO150S	COMMUNICATION SKILLS
<b>YEAR 2</b>			
PRB200S	OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT 2	PRB260S	OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT 2
OEF200S	ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS 2	OEF260S	ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS 2
PBT200S	OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES 2	QMM260S	QUALITY AND MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT
CAE101S	COSTING AND ESTIMATING	CAE250S	COSTING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT <sup>2</sup>
		LLA250S	LABOUR LAW

<sup>1</sup> Name-change of subject. From End User Computing to Business Computer Applications (See also 2, 3 & 4)

<sup>2</sup> Name-change of subject. From Costing and Estimating to Costing and Financial Management

YEAR 3			
PRB300S	OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT 3	PRB360S	OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT 3
PBT300S	OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES 3	PBT360S	OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES 2 <sup>3</sup>
OMP100S	OPERATIONS PRACTICE 1	OMP360S	OPERATIONS PRACTICE 3 <sup>4</sup>
OEF300S	ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS 3	OEF360S	ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS 3

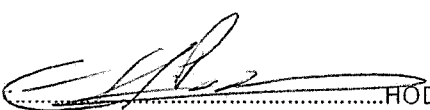
#### DESCRIPTION OF REVISION TO SYLLABUS

Besides a few name changes to subjects (refer footnotes 1 to 4) you will notice that the subject **Communication Skills** has been added to the Diploma in Operations Management in the first year –See table above. **Labour Law** will now be offered in the second year of the new Diploma. This will impact on students who started their first year in 2016 and those who are currently in their second year. Students who started in 2016 will have one subject short – Communication Skills - as the new diploma has 14 subjects compared to 13. To satisfy the requirements of the new Diploma, you will need to complete all 14 subjects. Credits for the old diploma will be given once you have moved to the new diploma.

How can we address this?

- If you are a SECOND YEAR STUDENT, and would like to transfer directly to the new stream (Dip), you will replace “LABOUR LAW” with “COMMUNICATION SKILLS”, as you have already completed “LABOUR LAW” in the first year. So you don’t have any additional subjects.
- If you are a THIRD YEAR STUDENT, and would like to graduate on the new stream (Dip), you will have to add “COMMUNICATION SKILLS” (additional first year subject) to your 3<sup>rd</sup> year subjects to qualify. The same applies to repeating 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year full time and part time students.
- If you have started the course and had a break in studies, when you decide to come back and finish your studies, you will have to re-apply and will be automatically moved to the new Diploma.

Please make use of this opportunity to satisfy any clarifications you might need in order to make an informed decision on your future studies.

Signed  HOD: E H PARKER

<sup>3</sup> Name-change of subject. From Operations Management Techniques 3 to Operations Management Techniques 2

<sup>4</sup> Name-change of subject. From Operations Practice 1 to Operations Practice 3