

1 April 2021

OPEN LETTER TO APPLICANTS PRIVATE ADULT EDUCATION AND TRAINING COLLEGES

Dear prospective applicant for accreditation

1. Application Process

Umalusi accepts applications for accreditation from Private Adult Education and Training Colleges wishing to offer the General Education and Training Certificate (GETC): Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) Level 4 (SAQA ID 73249).

The accreditation process is as follows for a new applicant:

	Step in Process	Explanation
1.1	Letter of intent to apply for accreditation	<p>a. A private AET college completes an online "Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply for accreditation" found on the Umalusi website: www.umalusi.org.za "Apply for Accreditation".</p> <p>b. An invoice for processing of the LOI is generated on the online system and can be printed from the system.</p> <p>c. Once payment is verified, Umalusi screens the applicant's expression of intent and approves or rejects it or requests further information.</p>
1.2	Attendance of a Quality Promotion (QP) Meeting	<p>a. All applicants must attend a compulsory Quality Promotion (QP) meeting prior to completing their self-evaluation report (application). These meetings are meant to ensure that applicants are fully aware of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How to complete an application. ii. The evidence required. iii. Preparation for the site visit - logistical arrangements and the programme. iv. Fees applicable and payment methods. <p>b. Attendance at these meetings will be per invitation only. Applicants will be informed of the date and venue. Only the applicants who have submitted their online intent to apply for accreditation, and whose letter of intent has been accepted, will be invited.</p> <p>c. Applicants will be invoiced for this attendance and may only attend after confirmation of payment for the QP meeting.</p>

	Step in Process	Explanation
		<p>d. After attendance of the QP meeting, the applicant will be granted access to the online self-evaluation instrument and will be invoiced for the submission of the self-evaluation report.</p> <p>e. Applicants will also be granted access to the application guideline document that clearly explains in detail what is expected, particularly in terms of the evidence required.</p>
1.3	Submission of online Self-Evaluation report and required Evidence	<p>a. Once the self-evaluation invoice has been paid and payment verified, applicants will be able to submit their self-evaluation report and the required evidence online by uploading on Umalusi's online system.</p> <p>b. If the required evidence is not satisfactorily submitted, the self-evaluation report will be returned to the applicant to rework and resubmit with the correct evidence. An additional fee is payable on each re-submission.</p> <p>c. Only two re-submissions will be permitted.</p> <p>d. If there is no improvement after the second re-submission, the entire submission will be rejected. The applicant will then be required to make a new application and pay for the new application from the beginning of the process. On reapplication there will be no access to the documents previously uploaded.</p>
1.4	Registration with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	<p>a. Once the self-evaluation report meets the minimum requirements, Umalusi will advise the DHET thereof.</p> <p>b. The DHET will then conduct their processes leading to provisional registration as a private AET college if the college meets the minimum requirements.</p> <p>c. A site visit will only take place once the private college is registered or provisionally registered by the DHET, the qualification/programme has been implemented, an external examination has been written, and the requisite site visit fee has been paid and verified.</p> <p>d. Applicants which do not meet the requirements for provisional registration with the DHET will not be able to continue with the accreditation process, since registration is a requirement for accreditation. The accreditation application will remain valid for a period of 12 months, during which time the applicant must actively pursue registration with the DHET. Should the applicant not receive</p>

	Step in Process	Explanation
		<p>registration (or provisional registration) within 12 months, the application for accreditation will be terminated, with no refund of costs for the services already provided. A new application, at full cost to the applicant, will then need to be made should the applicant still seek accreditation by Umalusi.</p>
1.5	Site verification visit	<p>a. Once the provisionally registered private college has conducted an external examination the next phase of the accreditation process, which is the site visit to verify implementation of the qualification/programme, will take place.</p> <p>b. A site visit will only take place once the requisite site visit fee has been paid and verified.</p> <p>c. Applicants who request a delay of the site visit will retain the status of “unaccredited” until such time as they are found compliant with the accreditation criteria.</p> <p>d. A delay in the site visit (caused by the institution) of more than 6 months will lead to the lapse of the application, with no refund of costs, and no access to the documents previously submitted.</p>
1.6	Accreditation report submitted to the Accreditation Committee of Council (ACC)	<p>a. After a site visit a consolidated report will be presented to the Accreditation Committee of Council (ACC) to ensure that the accreditation process was fair and that the decisions are consistent with the evidence found.</p> <p>b. The decisions which can be made are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 years accreditation • 2 years provisional accreditation • Does not meet the requirements – “window period” to improve. • No accreditation
1.7	Correspondence sent to AET Institutions for which the ACC recommends “a window period to improve” or provisional	<p>a. Private AET centres which do not meet the minimum requirements for accreditation will be notified of the areas which were found not meeting the requirements at the first presentation of the report to the ACC and the time period in which the requirements must be met for the institution to be granted accreditation. However, the institution must maintain the minimum standards in all criteria, not only those listed in the accreditation feedback report.</p>

	Step in Process	Explanation
	accreditation for the initial application	<p>b. An additional fee is payable on submission of evidence of meeting the requirements.</p> <p>c. An unannounced or online follow-up site visit may be conducted to verify the new evidence submitted.</p> <p>d. Non-submission of the evidence during the specified time period or non-payment of the required fee, will lead to a final "no accreditation" decision.</p> <p>e. After verification of the new evidence submitted, the report will again be presented to the ACC to ensure that the decisions are consistent with the evidence found.</p> <p>f. Note that at the time of review, <u>all</u> accreditation criteria must still be met. Therefore, if criteria were met at the first presentation of the report, and therefore were not stated as conditions to be met, but the standards drop and the college no longer meets the criteria, that will be taken into account in making a decision on the outcome of the application for accreditation.</p>
1.8	Decision by the CEO	<p>a. Once the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has approved the recommendation of the ACC the outcome will be communicated to the institution by means of a letter.</p> <p>b. A copy of the letter will be sent to the DHET registration Directorate. The DHET will review the provisional registration of the applicant based on the outcome of the application for accreditation.</p> <p>c. An appeal process is in place should the applicant wish to appeal the outcome of the decision, based on evidence available at the time of the application.</p>
1.9	Monitoring	Umalusi will monitor accredited private education institutions in the second and fourth years of their seven year accreditation and further as required.
1.10	Reapplication	All accredited private colleges must reapply for accreditation in their sixth year of accreditation.

2. Payment of Invoices

- a. The fees for the accreditation process are indicated on page 10 of this letter.

- b. Payment must be made per step of the accreditation process. This means that payment for each step must be made before the next step can take place.
- c. No step will be executed before all amounts the applicant is invoiced for are settled. This includes invoices for other services provided by Umalusi, such as certification fees.
- d. Umalusi will not refund any payments made towards an executed step. Should an institution wish to cancel their application, there will be no refund. We therefore appeal to institutions to be sure about their application.
- e. Invoices issued for any step of the process must be settled within 3 months. Failure to do so will result in the rejection of the application irrespective of the step at which the applicant is.
- f. Applicants whose invoices were not settled and their applications rejected will be required to re-apply for accreditation at full cost to the applicant. There will be no transfer of funds from previous applications that have been rejected. The applicant will not have access to documents already submitted in the case of the rejection of an application.

3. Reporting of accreditation status

- a. In line with the Department of Higher Education and Training's requirements for registration of private colleges, Umalusi is required to report the accreditation status of colleges to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). To this end, Umalusi will submit such a report to the DHET.
- b. Accredited private education institutions will receive a letter of accreditation and an accreditation certificate.
- c. Accredited private education institutions will also be displayed on Umalusi's website www.umalusi.org.za.

4. Additional information

Additional information on this accreditation process can be obtained from the guideline documents found on the Umalusi website and during attendance of the Quality Promotion meetings. You may also contact our offices in this regard.

Contact details are as follows:

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ACCREDITATION CRITERIA

PRIVATE COLLEGES		
Criteria	Description in Policy ¹	Core indicators for accreditation
Criterion 1: Mission Directed Leadership and Management	<p>(i) Mission directed leadership and management which are concerned with-</p> <p>(aa) the attainment of the vision and mission as informed by-</p> <p>(aaa) its legal framework and context;</p> <p>(bbb) national priorities;</p> <p>(ccc) strategic leadership and effective governance structures and strategies; and</p> <p>(ddd) the effectiveness with which the qualification or part-qualification mix and provision is selected, planned, managed, quality assured and improved;</p> <p>(bb) the appropriate allocation of resources to ensure that the institution is viable and sustainable;</p> <p>(cc) a reflection of the institutional commitment to monitor and evaluate in order to improve quality; and</p> <p>(dd) the establishment of the required infrastructure and processes to ensure quality provision.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The private college is registered as a company in terms of the CET Act; • It has the capacity to offer a qualification that is registered on the GFETQSF; • Its ethos promotes and is not in conflict with the values of the South African Constitution; • The college leadership is suitably qualified and together with the governance and academic structures provide strategic direction, and consult and communicate with all relevant stakeholders; • An active governance structure is in place; • The private college is provisionally registered/registered as a private college in line with the requirements of the CET Act; • The management of learner records is comprehensive, authentic and reliable; • The management establish the strategic direction of the college and ensure that the institution's vision and mission promote an ethos that is not in conflict with the South African constitution.

¹ Policy for the Quality Assurance of Private Colleges for Continuing Education and Training, offering Qualifications registered on the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-framework and the Accreditation of Private Assessment Bodies. (Government Gazette 41887 of 7 September 2018), which replaced Government Gazette 33237 of 28 May 2010).

PRIVATE COLLEGES		
Criteria	Description in Policy ¹	Core indicators for accreditation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Academic Head / Principal responsible for academics holds a professional teaching qualification. • Audited financial statements for the most recent financial year are available. • A current Health and Safety Certificate (not older than two years) is available. • Evidence of servicing of fire equipment (not older than twelve months).
Criterion 2: Teaching, Learning and Training	<p>(i) The private college is professionally staffed to support the qualifications or part-qualifications it offers.</p> <p>(ii) Learning and assessment are at the core of the enactment of the curriculum.</p> <p>(iii) The private college implements the curriculum and assessment requirements at the required standard and in accordance with the directives, policy and regulation requirements of the qualifications or part-qualifications registered on the GFETQSF.</p> <p>(iv) The curriculum is enacted to reflect appropriate instructional approaches that support learning in respect of qualifications or part-qualifications the institution is accredited to offer.</p> <p>(v) Suitable learning programmes and materials in support of the qualifications or part-qualifications offered are developed.</p> <p>(vi) Teaching proficiency is increased through the development of appropriate pedagogy and methodology by means of staff development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The private college is sufficiently resourced and sustainable, has adequate teaching and learning resources, suitable facilities, premises, and human and financial resources and structures to manage the programmes offered and enhance the quality of teaching and learning • Teaching staff are suitably qualified and experienced; • The teachers demonstrate capacity in the delivery of the qualification; • Curriculum requirements (including practicals) are implemented at the required standard; • There is evidence of staff training and development in line with the qualification applied for. • Monitoring of classroom / lesson delivery is conducted; • Appropriate instructional approaches are implemented; • Students/learners are satisfied with the teaching provided.

PRIVATE COLLEGES		
Criteria	Description in Policy¹	Core indicators for accreditation
Criterion 3: Assessment and Results	<p>(i) The private college manages and conducts internal continuous assessment of an acceptable standard and in line with directives, policies and regulations of the qualification and provides developmental feedback to learners.</p> <p>(ii) The private college is registered as an examination centre that undertakes external examinations in compliance with the directives, policies and regulations of Umalusi and the relevant qualification.</p> <p>(iii) Quantitative and qualitative data are used to track learner achievement and improve learner success.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The private college is registered as an examination centre with a public or accredited private assessment body; • The private college demonstrates capacity in the conduct and management of internal assessment and external examinations, and provides developmental feedback and support to learners; • The teachers demonstrate capacity in the conduct and development of ICASS / ISAT tasks that are of acceptable standards in accordance with Umalusi's directives and the regulations pertaining to the qualification; • The private college demonstrates alignment of records of learner achievement for ICASS / ISAT per level of the qualification / programme offered. • Appropriate processes (monitoring and moderation) are in place to ensure assessment instruments, in keeping with the purpose and context of subjects, are used. • Assessment tasks are planned and analysed, and conform to the cognitive levels, number and types of assessments as indicated in the Subject Assessment Guidelines. • The registered examination centre undertakes external assessment in compliance with the national policy and regulations (with no irregularities).
Criterion 4: Learner Support	<p>Learner support is evident through-</p> <p>(i) academic guidance and support; and career guidance and support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institution provides activities, programmes and services that meet the academic, cultural, moral, and physical progression of learners/students. • A counsellor has been appointed to oversee learner/student support.

SUMMATIVE SCORES OBTAINED IN ALL CRITERIA

Accreditation Decision	Score
7 years accreditation	A rating of 3 obtained in all the criteria
2 years provisional accreditation	Any combination of ratings of 2 and 3 (nothing less than a 2)
Window period / No accreditation	Rating of 1 in any of the criteria

**PRIVATE ADULT EDUCATION AND TRAINING CETNRES
ACCREDITATION FEES
EFFECTIVE 1 APRIL 2021**

		GETC: ABET Level 4 (1 programme: 120 credits)
Step 1	Letter of Intent (LOI)	R 999.50
Step 2	Attendance at Quality Promotion Workshop (per person)	R 599.00
Step 3	Self-evaluation	R 8 690.00
Step 4	Site visit	R 27 665.00
Step 5	Biennial Accreditation Fee	R 3 330.00

Re-evaluation of self-evaluation report (per event)	R 6 658.00
Evaluation of evidence submitted after a "window period"	R 7 325.00
Evaluation of evidence submitted after an outcome of provisional accreditation	R 7 325.00
"Change of site" fee	R 7 325.00
Appeals: Desktop evaluation	R 7 325.00
Appeals: Verification Site Visit	R 7 325.00 in addition to Desktop evaluation appeal fee
Follow up monitoring process for institutions which fail to maintain the required accreditation standard	R 7 325.00

All fees are subject to an annual increase