



**Update on developments affecting
private education institutions
in the
General and Further Education and Training
Qualifications Sub-Framework
(GFETQSF)**

Umalusi Accreditation Forum

8 March 2023

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Qualifications on the GFETQSF
 - Phasing out of the N1-N3 Engineering Studies
 - NASCA / SC(a)
 - GETC: ABET / GETCA
- GEC
- ECD and accreditation
- Umalusi's mandate related to foreign qualifications and alternate curricula
- Online Schools
- Blended modes of provision
- Umalusi's online accreditation system

QUALIFICATIONS ON THE GFETQSF

QUALIFICATION	ACRONYM	SECTOR	NOF LEVEL
National Certificate (Vocational)	NC(V)	Private FET Colleges	4
National Senior Certificate	NSC	Independent Schools	4
National Senior Certificate for Adults	NASCA	Not yet implemented	4
Senior Certificate (as amended)	SC(a)	Adults (DBE)	4
General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training	GETC:ABET	Private AET Colleges (Adults)	1
General Education and Training Certificate for Adults	GETCA	Not yet implemented	1
PROGRAMME			
NATED Report 190/191 N1-N3 Engineering Studies	NATED N1-N3	Private FET Colleges	1-3

NATED REPORT 190/191 N1-N3 ENGINEERING STUDIES

Proposed date of phase out of N1-N3 programmes is January 2024 with a teach out period until December 2025.

DHET Letter dated 18 August 2022

PHASING OUT OF N1-N3 ENGINEERING STUDIES PROGRAMMES

- No new applications for registration to offer N1-N3 Engineering Studies, lodged after 31 December 2022, will be considered;
- All new applications for registration to offer N1-N3 Engineering Studies programmes, lodged by 31 December, including those that are currently in the pipeline, will be processed subject to the **phase out date of N1-N3 Engineering Studies programmes** to be published by the Minister in the Government Gazette; and
- Enrolments of students on N1-N3 Engineering Studies programmes to continue until the phase out date of N1-N3 Engineering Studies programmes as published by the Minister in the Government Gazette.

NATED REPORT 190/191 N1-N3 ENGINEERING STUDIES

PHASING OUT OF N1-N3 ENGINEERING STUDIES PROGRAMME IMPLICATIONS ON ACCREDITATION

- No new applications for accreditation to offer the programme are being accepted
- Applications already in the process will have the option to continue with the accreditation process at full cost, or to terminate the application.
- Accreditation will lapse in line with the phasing out of the programme.
- There will be no refund of costs for services rendered in the accreditation process when the programme is phased out.
- A process to extend the accreditation of private colleges whose seven year accreditation to offer the N1-N3 Engineering Studies expires in the next few years to align with the phase out of the programmes is being considered.

NASCA / SC(a)

NASCA

- Umalusi yet to receive the following from the DHET
 - Final Intended curricula
 - Assessed curricula
- Issues of articulation with Higher Education still to be sorted out.
- Not ready for implementation yet

SC(a)

- Ministerial Concession was gazetted to retain the SC(a) until the NASCA is implemented.
- Transitional arrangements, therefore Umalusi does not accredit private education institutions to offer the SC(a)
- Currently examinations are through the DBE – candidates must register through the DBE.

GETCA / GETC:ABET

- The GETCA will replace the GETC: ABET
- Ministerial Concession was gazetted to retain the GETC until the GETCA is implemented.
- Assessment is through the DHET

Note:

- This qualification is on NQF Level 1:
It is equivalent to Grade 9, **NOT** Grade 12

GENERAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (GEC)

- A one year qualification at NQF Level 1, with 120 credits.
- Obtainable at the end of Grade 9, intended to mark the end of General Education and Training (Grades R-9).
- Aimed at providing a foundation for standardised general education and training at the end of compulsory schooling.
- Provides an opportunity for the integration and facilitation of assessing 21st century skills.
- The broader purpose of the GEC is to enable the articulation of Grade 9 achievers into the envisaged Three Stream Model, with the option for them to follow:
 - The **academic stream** through the completion of the NSC at NQF level 4
 - The **vocational stream** through the completion of the NC(V) at NQF Levels 2-4, offered at TVET colleges; or
 - The **occupation-oriented stream** at NQF levels 2-4, Occupational qualifications are on the OQSF.

GENERAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (GEC)

- The DBE submitted the GEC policy to Umalusi for consideration and it was provisionally approved with specific directives from Umalusi.
- The piloting phase of the Occupation-oriented curriculum of the GEC was started in 2017 by the DBE for the Schools of Skill (Year 1-4)
- The DBE started the first pilot phase of the GEC in ordinary schools in Grade 8 in 2021 and Grade 9 in 2022.
- In 2022, the sample for the pilot was increased to 277 schools, representative of the different school types across all nine provinces.
- Umalusi still awaits the DBE to submit the assessed curricula for vocational and occupation-oriented subjects.
- Umalusi will approve the qualification when it satisfies the requirements of the policies for registration of a qualification on the sub-framework.
- The GEC will be officially implemented once it is approved by Umalusi and is registered on the NQF.

GENERAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (GEC)

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

- The GEC will provide benchmarking standards against which independent schools compare their internal assessment standards.
- The GEC is a national qualification at NQF Level 1, and all independent schools offering a curriculum leading to the NSC (National Curriculum Statement including the CAPS) will be obliged to offer the GEC.
- Umalusi uses a set of criteria to accredit independent schools to offer qualifications on the GFETQSF, therefore, all independent schools offering the GEC will have to satisfy the accreditation criteria to offer the curriculum leading to the GEC.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

- Umalusi accredits independent schools to offer the National Curriculum Statement (NCS) leading to the National Senior Certificate.
- The NCS covers Grades R-12.
- **When Grade R attendance is compulsory**, independent schools offering Grade R will need to be accredited to offer Grade R.
- ECD prior to Grade R is currently not covered by the NCS, and therefore will not fall under Umalusi's accreditation mandate.
- Grade R has specific facility and resource requirements and a different programme to Grades 1 – 3, therefore there will be a specific focus on Grade R in accrediting schools that offer Grade R.

WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?

Policy and Criteria for the Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Monitoring of Independent Schools and Private Assessment Bodies.
(GG 41206 of 27 October 2017)

“**accreditation**” is the outcome of a quality assurance process of evaluating a private education institution to determine whether it has the capacity to offer a qualification or programmes leading to a qualification on the GFETQSF.

A minimum compliance requirement for accreditation is, inter alia, that the school implements the curriculum/programme and assessment requirements at the required standard and in accordance with the policy requirements of the qualification registered on the sub-framework.

UMALUSI'S MANDATE RELATED TO FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS

WHAT DOES UMALUSI CONSIDER TO BE A FOREIGN QUALIFICATION?

A qualification that is:

- Not registered on the South African National Qualifications Framework
- Certificates are issued by a body outside of South Africa

WHAT DOES THE NQF ACT SAY ABOUT QUALIFICATIONS OFFERED IN SOUTH AFRICA?

3 (1) This Act applies to-

(a) education programmes or learning programmes that lead to qualifications or part-qualifications offered within the Republic by-

(i) education institutions;

(2) Every qualification or part-qualification contemplated in subsection (1) must be registered on the National Qualifications Framework in accordance with this Act.

UMALUSI'S MANDATE RELATED TO ALTERNATE CURRICULA

WHAT DOES UMALUSI CONSIDER TO BE AN ALTERNATE CURRICULUM?

A curriculum / learning programme that is offered by an independent school that is not fully in line with the National Curriculum Statement, however, the learners write the National Senior Certificate examination.

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UMALUSI'S MANDATE RELATED TO ALTERNATE CURRICULA

THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS ACT

- Applies to school education in South Africa, including **both public and independent schools**.
- Provides for the registration of independent schools.
- **Requires the Minister of Basic Education to determine a national curriculum statement indicating minimum outcomes or standards and a national process and procedures for the assessment of learner achievement.**
- Requires that the national curriculum statement and the processes and procedures for assessment **must be applicable to public and independent schools**.

UMALUSI'S MANDATE RELATED TO ALTERNATE CURRICULA REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM STATEMENT GRADES R – 12

- Define “**minimum outcomes and standards**” as the minimum level at which a learner must attain the content and assessment requirements for **all subjects** listed in the National Curriculum Statement Grades R – 12 as specified in the curriculum and assessment policy statements and **includes the programme and promotion requirements for Grades R - 12** as stipulated in the NCS policy and in the CAPS of all approved subjects.
- **Stipulate areas of flexibility for independent schools** regarding compliance with the minimum outcomes and standards for the NCS Grades R – 12, namely
 - In terms of foundation, intermediate and senior phases, independent schools may have comparable content sequencing principles in place provided they meet the required performance targets, and
 - may deviate from minimum progression requirements provided they are higher and have been determined in consultation with the parents of the school, and
 - Independent schools may also determine their own management and maintenance structures regarding the assessment records that must be developed and kept at the school.

UMALUSI'S APPROACH TO SCHOOLS WANTING TO BE ACCREDITED TO OFFER THE NSC

- The NCS (comprising the 3 documents) is the minimum standard that leads to the NSC.
- To be accredited to offer the NSC, independent schools must provide evidence
 - that they adhere to the content and assessment requirements for all subjects as indicated in the NCS, as well as
 - the programme and promotion requirements of the NCS.
- **Independent schools seeking accreditation may add to or extend the NCS but must offer the NCS as a minimum.**

ONLINE SCHOOLS

The General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance Act

23(2) Any institution that is required to register as—

- (a) an independent school in terms of the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act No. 84 of 1996);

must comply with the policy and criteria contemplated in subsection (1).

Online schools are currently not registered in terms of the SASA and therefore do not currently fall under Umalusi's mandate for accreditation.

ACCREDITATION AND VARIOUS MODES OF DELIVERY

Synchronous online learning

- An instructor interacts with all enrolled students online simultaneously in synchronised online learning.
- Currently, these institutions are not registered in line with the South African Schools Act and therefore cannot be considered for accreditation by Umalusi.

Asynchronous online learning

- Learners are given deadlines, assignments, and pre-recorded, pre-planned content.
- There are not set meeting times because interaction may be found on discussion boards, Wiki pages, and blogs.
- Currently, these institutions are not registered in line with the South African Schools Act and therefore cannot be considered for accreditation by Umalusi.

ACCREDITATION AND VARIOUS MODES OF DELIVERY

Hybrid instruction

- An independent school uses the services of an online education provider to provide the lessons in the school.
- Learners attend the “brick and mortar” school and log into lessons provided by an online or distance education provider.
- The teachers at the school ensure that learners apply themselves to the programmes offered by the online education provider.
- This type of school will not meet the requirements for accreditation as it does not demonstrate the capacity to provide the curriculum leading to the qualification themselves but rely on the services of another provider.

ACCREDITATION AND VARIOUS MODES OF DELIVERY

Blended learning within a registered “brick and mortar” independent school

- Blended learning offers a mix of online and face-to-face instruction.
- Blended learning takes place in a school building.
- Learners often do the online portion in a classroom on devices such as laptops or tablets or as homework to research at home.
- Class time is used for discussions and hands on projects using digital / online content to supplement teaching in the classroom.
- The teacher remains responsible for the development of lessons and assessment.
- An independent school using blended learning methodology may be considered for accreditation by Umalusi.

UMALUSI'S ONLINE ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

- The Online Accreditation System is the system which allows for the online application for accreditation.
- Umalusi ICT developers have been working on a new improved online accreditation system (the technical aspects of the online system, not the accreditation criteria).
- The new system will replace the current Online Accreditation System, and will be piloted in phases, starting with Letter of Intent (LoI) module as from April 2023.
- The two systems (old and new) will run parallel until the new system is stable. Data will be migrated from the old to the new system.
- The system will have a user guide to enable institutions to transition into the new system.
- Umalusi staff will provide support in respect of any challenges encountered.

THANK YOU

Questions?

