

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: ACCREDITATION OF PRIVATE ASSESSMENT BODIES

This document aims to enhance understanding of Umalusi's quality assurance mandate, scope, and initiatives as they relate to private assessment bodies.

1. Quality assurance mandate and scope

1.1	<p>Who may establish a private assessment body?</p> <p>A juristic body that has the capacity to conduct national external examinations and quality assure internal assessment in respect of a qualification registered on the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-framework (GFETQSF). A private assessment body must be accredited by Umalusi to assess a qualification registered on the GFETQSF.</p>
1.2	<p>Must a private assessment body be accredited?</p> <p>Private assessment bodies are required to seek accreditation with Umalusi to assess a qualification that is registered on the GFETQSF. Accreditation is a legal requirement for assessment bodies in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance (GENFETQA) Act, 2001 (as amended); – the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act, 2008 as amended; – the Policy and Criteria for the Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Monitoring of Independent Schools and Private Assessment Bodies, as promulgated by the Minister of Basic Education on 29 October 2012 (Government Gazette 35830), as amended. – the Regulations regarding the criteria for the quality assurance, accreditation, and monitoring of independent schools and private assessment bodies (Government Gazette 41206 of 27 October 2017; and – the 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).
1.3	<p>What is accreditation?</p> <p>Accreditation is the outcome of a quality assurance process of evaluating a private assessment body to determine whether its capacity, systems, processes, and products are of the appropriate quality to deliver valid, reliable, fair, and credible assessments.</p> <p>Accreditation attests to the capacity of the assessment body to assess qualifications that are registered on the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-framework (GFETQSF).</p>
1.4	<p>Does every institution that wants to administer an assessment have to be accredited by Umalusi?</p> <p>Every private institution that wants to administer national examinations for exit-level qualifications registered on the GFETQSF must be accredited by Umalusi.</p>

1.5	<p>We assess a foreign/international qualification. Are we expected to apply for accreditation with Umalusi?</p> <p>In terms of section 3 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act, foreign qualifications offered in South Africa are required to be registered on the NQF. Once a qualification is registered on the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework (GFETQSF), then a private assessment body would be required to apply for accreditation by Umalusi to assess the qualification.</p>
1.6	<p>How do I apply for accreditation as an assessment body?</p> <p>The body wishing to become an Umalusi-accredited assessment body is required to submit an Expression of Intent (EOI) indicating the intent to assess one or more of the qualifications that are registered on the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-framework, together with a sworn declaration. A template for the Expression of Intent and the sworn declaration is available on request from Umalusi. (Such a request can be sent to accreditation@umalusi.org.za. Completed documents must be emailed or sent by courier to Umalusi, Attention: The Manager: Evaluation and Monitoring, Evaluation and Accreditation Unit.</p>
1.7	<p>When must an assessment body submit an application for accreditation?</p> <p>An application for accreditation as an assessment body must be made at least twenty-four (24) months before the first examination is envisaged.</p>
1.8	<p>What are the criteria used by Umalusi to evaluate an assessment body?</p> <p>Private assessment bodies are evaluated against the accreditation criteria of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leadership, Planning and Management; 2. Assessment Standards; 3. Research and Development; 4. The Conduct and Administration of Examinations and/or Assessment; and 5. Resulting Systems and Processes.
1.9	<p>Is the accreditation of private assessment bodies optional or compulsory?</p> <p>Accreditation is compulsory for private assessment bodies that assess qualifications that are registered on the GFETQSF.</p>
1.10	<p>Where can one view a list of accredited private assessment bodies?</p> <p>Accredited private assessment bodies are listed on Umalusi's website. This information can be accessed at www.umalusi.org.za under "Units – Evaluation and Accreditation Unit".</p> <p>www.umalusi.org.za/units/evaluation-and-accreditation-unit-ea/</p>
1.11	<p>How much does an assessment body pay for the accreditation application?</p> <p>A full schedule of fees is available on pages 9 and 10 of the "Open Letter to Applicants – Private Assessment Bodies", which is available on the Umalusi website. The schedule of fees can also be requested by emailing accreditation@umalusi.org.za.</p>
1.12	<p>Who is involved in the evaluation process of an assessment body?</p> <p>Senior officials of Umalusi and qualified and experienced evaluators are appointed and trained by Umalusi to evaluate private assessment bodies.</p>
1.13	<p>What is the process for accreditation of a private assessment body?</p> <p>The process is outlined in the documents "Open Letter to Applicants – Private Assessment Bodies" and "Guideline for implementation of the Policy and Criteria for the Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Monitoring of Private Assessment Bodies",</p>

which are available on the Umalusi website, or by emailing a request to accreditation@umalusi.org.za.

2. Monitoring

2.1	<p>How will Umalusi monitor the compliance of accredited private assessment bodies?</p> <p>All examinations, whether pilot or otherwise, must be quality assured by Umalusi. Umalusi quality assures the various stages of the assessment process to ensure continued compliance with accreditation criteria and to maintain the required standards of assessment and examinations. These quality assurance measures apply to every examination and to all assessment bodies, whether public or private.</p> <p>Annual quality assurance is conducted for two main purposes, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– External moderation of the standards of examination question papers, quality assurance of internal assessment, and marking; and– Monitoring for compliance with the accreditation criteria, which includes monitoring the "state of readiness" to administer examinations undertaken before each examination is administered, and the monitoring of the conduct of examinations. <p>The monitoring process informs the Assessment Standards Committee's (ASC) recommendations for approval of examination results by Umalusi's Executive Council (EXCO) on behalf of the Council.</p>
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3. General

3.1	<p>Is there an appeal process if we disagree with the final outcome of our application?</p> <p>In terms of the Umalusi appeal process, a request for an appeal must be submitted to the office of the Umalusi Chief Executive Officer within 10 working days of receipt of the outcome of the accreditation application, indicating in detail the reason(s) for the appeal. Appeals must be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer and emailed to accreditation.appeals@umalusi.org.za.</p> <p>The required fee must be paid before an appeal is considered. Should the finding of the appeal be in favour of the appellant, the fee paid will be refunded to the appellant.</p>
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Enquiries: accreditation@umalusi.org.za