

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

NO. 165

02 MARCH 2018

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT, 1997 (ACT No.101 OF 1997)**MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGHER CERTIFICATE, DIPLOMA AND BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMMES FOR HOLDERS OF THE SENIOR CERTIFICATE (AMENDED) AND THE REVOCATION OF DESIGNATED LIST OF SUBJECTS**

I, Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize, Minister of Higher Education and Training, in terms of section 3 of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No.101 of 1997), as amended, hereby promulgate an amendment to the policy for the *Minimum Admission requirements for Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's Degree programmes requiring a Senior Certificate* so as to accommodate candidate awarded a Senior Certificate (amended) issued in terms of the policy, A Résumé of Subjects for the Senior Certificate, Report 550 (2017/07) published in Government Gazette Notice No. 612 and 613 in Government Gazette, No. 37902 dated 11 August 2014.

I am also revoking the designated list of subjects with immediate effect.

This policy will be applicable to all higher education institutions and will be effective immediately.

In that this policy enables Umalusi, the Quality Council for General and Further Education, acting in terms of its mandate and applicable law, to endorse the certificates of qualifying candidates, and in that qualifying candidates in 2015 and 2016 were disadvantaged by the policy vacuum, this policy will be retrospective to January 2015 in order to allow Umalusi to endorse the certificates of qualifying candidates.


Prof HB Mkhize, MP**Minister of Higher Education and Training****Date:** 13/12/2017

SCHEDULE

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGHER CERTIFICATE, DIPLOMA AND DEGREE PROGRAMMES REQUIRING A SENIOR CERTIFICATE (AMENDED)

1. Policy considerations

The Higher Education Act, 1997, ensures that policies for higher education institutions, including admission policies, must be formulated with due regards for its relationship to and influence on education and training in other sectors. In particular such policies are expected to advance the objectives of redress, equity and quality in higher education. This policy provides the statutory minimum or threshold norms for admission to undergraduate Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's Degree programmes for holders of the Senior Certificate (amended) (SC(a)). This is a qualification for adult learners, and as such the policy fills an important policy vacuum.

The SC(a) will thus provide a gateway into higher education. Where the minimum requirements set out in this policy have been met, a qualifying candidate is not guaranteed admission to any programme of study in higher education. Public higher education institutions have, within the context of this policy, the right to set specific admission requirements to particular programmes in terms of section 37 of the Act. Private higher education institutions may also set additional admission requirements for entry into accredited programmes.

The SC(a) is a qualification aimed at adult learners. However, there will be adult learners who do not achieve a National Senior Certificate (NSC), a National Certificate Vocational (NC(V)) or an SC(a) or equivalent qualification, who can benefit from higher education. Alternative access routes are

available through Universities South Africa and its Matriculation Board, and institutional admissions policies of public and private HEIs.

2. Minimum requirements for admission to Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's Degree programmes in public and private higher education institutions in South Africa

2.1 Higher Certificate

The minimum admission requirement is a Senior Certificate issued under the August 2014 regulations for the Senior Certificate published under Government Notices 612 and 613 of August 2014 for the SC(a) with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching in the case of NSC/SC(a) and with a minimum of 33.3% in the case of SC (Report 550) of the higher education institution as certified by the Quality Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi).

Institutional and programme needs may require appropriate combinations of subjects and levels of achievement

2.2 Diploma

The minimum admission requirement is a Senior Certificate issued under the August 2014 regulations for the Senior Certificate published under Government Notices 612 and 613 of August 2014 for the SC(a) with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching in the case of NSC/SC(a) and with a minimum of 33.3% in the case of SC (Report 550) of the higher education institution as certified by the Quality Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi) coupled with:

- (a) If the candidate offered six NSC/SC(a) 20-credit subjects, an achievement rating of 3 (40%) or better in four NSC/SC(a) subjects; or
- (b) If the candidate offered a mix of SC (Report 550), NSC and SC(a) 20-credit subjects, and passes an achievement rating of 3 (40%) or better in at least four subjects, which must be Higher Grade SC and/or NSC and/or

SC(a) subjects, provided that a candidate may complete one Standard Grade SC subject at 50% or better in place of one Higher Grade SC subject at 40% or better.

Institutional and programme needs may require appropriate combinations of subjects and levels of achievement.

2.3 Bachelor's Degree

The minimum admission requirement is a Senior Certificate issued under the August 2014 regulations for the Senior Certificate published under Government Notices 612 and 613 of August 2014 for the SC(a) with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching in the case of NSC/SC(a) and with a minimum of 33.3% in the case of SC (Report 550) of the higher education institution as certified by the Quality Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi) coupled with:

- (a) If the candidate offered six NSC/SC(a) 20-credit subjects, an achievement rating of 4 (50%) or better in four NSC/SC(a) subjects; or
- (b) If the candidate offered a mix of SC (Report 550), NSC and SC(a) 20-credit subjects, and passes an achievement rating of 4 (50%) or better in at least four subjects, which must be Higher Grade SC and/or NSC and/or SC(a) subjects.

Institutional and programme needs may require appropriate combinations of subjects and levels of achievement