

higher education
& training
Department
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA


PQM AND HEMIS REPORTING

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PROGRAMME QUALIFICATION MIX (PQM)

Why is the PQM process so important?



Subsequent to the PQM process it was found that many institutions were reporting qualifications at programme level and not as approved in their PQMs. It was therefore decided around 2005 to do another PQM exercise, this time at a lower level particularly as the 2002 cycle was to end in 2006. Data was drawn from the qualification (QUAL) files in HEMIS of each institution and sent to them for verification against their 2002 (high level) PQMs. Queries were raised where it appeared that qualifications were on the QUAL file that were not on the PQMs. The final PQMs were then signed off again by the Minister, however institutions still report qualifications in HEMIS that are not on the PQM.

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PROGRAMME QUALIFICATION MIX (PQM)

Institutions cannot submit in their HEMIS returns any students who are registered for qualifications, short courses, etc that are not on the institution's PQM. **Why?**

Because the Minister approves whether an institution may offer a qualification for subsidy purposes. Therefore only students registered on a formal qualification that has been accredited, registered and placed on the PQM may be reported in HEMIS.

Also if a Formal qualification is not accredited and registered a student who completes that qualification may not get employment.

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HEMIS REPORTING

On the PQM application there is a section specifically relating to HEMIS such as the name of the qualification, the cesms, the subsidy units, etc.

During the PQM approval meetings the DHET will look at this section and where required will request universities to correct any information that may not be correct according to the HEMIS specifications e.g. course levels, funding levels etc.

HEMIS staff are therefore requested or staff who maintain the academic structure to use the information on these forms to populate the academic structure to ensure consistency with the PQMs.

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PQM and HEMIS REPORTING

The HEQSF aligned PQMs will reflect the approved qualification name, this must be the same as what has been accredited and must be in the QUAL file in your HEMIS reporting. Provision has been made for the abbreviation so do use the abbreviation for the approved qualification name. The auditors will be checking the qualification names against the HEQSF PQMs.

The PQM will reflect the abbreviation, qual type, the designator, the qualifier/s and related cesm/s, the major fields of study, the NQF credits separated for total, WIL/EL, Research, the HEMIS subsidy units also separated for total, formal and WIL, funding level and mode of delivery. All this information will have to be captured into a university's academic structure to ensure it is extracted correctly into HEMIS. The auditors will be required to ensure that information in the QUAL file conforms to what is on the HEQSF PQM.

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ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

Once an institution receives notification that a qualification has been placed on their PQM, they may now activate it on the academic structure. Institutions will all have their own internal rules regarding the loading of the academic structure. Some may load the information prior to final PQM notification others only once they have been informed that the qualification has been accredited. In this instance the qualification cannot be activated until they have the final letter from the Department informing them that the qualification is on their PQM has been received.

It has come to the attention of both the CHE and DHET that institutions are in some instances offering qualifications for which they have not received accreditation nor final PQM clearance. In these instances the CHE has not accredited the programme and referred the university back to the DHET.

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ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

Why is it so important that the academic structure accurately reflects the programmes/qualifications offered by the institution? Because these are the programmes and qualifications against which a student will register and which will be audited by the external auditors during the HEMIS auditing process.

The information in the calendars should be the same as what is carried on the academic structure and this in turn should be the same as what has been submitted for the PQM and accreditation process. The calendar forms part of your contract with the student. If your academic structure is incorrect students will not be correctly registered for a programme/qualification and its courses. For example if a qualification has been accredited with a particular number of credits for the research component this cannot just be changed as it will impact on funding. It is for this reason that the PQM application now requires the number of credits to be reflected for research.

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ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED BY THE AUDITORS

1. The names of qualifications are not correct. A typical example is where a Bachelor of Education is still being reported as a Bachelor of Arts (Education). This has a huge impact on students when the certificate is awarded with this incorrect name.
2. Qualifications for which no evidence can be found of PQM clearance and accreditation
3. Incorrect qual types linked to a qualification, e.g a qual type of Professional Bachelor's degree linked to Post grad diplomas.
4. Incorrect cesms which impact on a student's major field of study. In terms of the old PQMs there is a problem in that they have the old cesms but evidence should be available of an institution being able to offer in a specific field of study, e.g Economics.
5. Total times that are incorrect, this will affect the calculation of the credit values.

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ISSUE FOR DEBATE

The Advanced Diploma and Post Graduate Certificate in Education how should these be reported – as Undergraduate qualifications or Post Diploma/Graduate qualifications?

In SAPSE 004 (95/01) a Post-graduate Diploma or Certificate is described as a diploma or certificate with a bachelor's degree as a pre-requisite for admission to the programme.

A Post-diploma diploma (classified as post-diplomate) – 1 year study after obtaining an appropriate national diploma or equivalent.

The National Higher diploma was classified as Post-diplomate

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THANK YOU

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