




higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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REVISED PROGRAMME CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE (PCS)

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REVISED PCS

- In 2008 draft documents were produced for the update of the old SAPSE Student Manual, Staff Manual and PCS manual.
- The DHET proceeded with updating the PCS Manual in 2015 and the 2008 draft document served as the basis for going forward.
- Terms of reference were compiled and HESA (now Universities South Africa) provided 3 people, Ms Trish Gibbon, Prof Anton Ströh and Mr Paul Krige, to assist in finalising the document. The Minister then requested HESA (now Universities South Africa) to circulate the update manual to all institutions for comment and to collate the responses by the 31st July 2015.

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REVISED PCS

- Universities South Africa have provided the DHET with the responses they received from 8 institutions to date.
- Some of the responses are very comprehensive others are just requesting an inclusion of a category such as student safety and security (no definition provided) under Auxilliary Enterprises.
- The DHET only recently received these 8 responses so has not as yet done a comprehensive analysis of the inputs. Once this has been undertaken along with comments received at the institute the manual will be updated and sent to the Minister for sign off. It is expected that sign off will take place towards the end of the year so the recommended implementation date will be for 2017.

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REVISED PCS

The PCS is a framework that allows for the classification of a higher education institution's resources and programmes/activities in accordance with their relationship to the achievement of institutional aims and objectives.

Specifically, the PCS is a logical framework that enables an institution to array information in a hierarchical disaggregation of programmes, in which a "programme" is defined as a aggregation of activities serving a common set of objectives.

The "programme" categories do not represent institutional objectives, rather they are a prototype list of the "programmes" an institution would undertake to attain its objectives. Also, the PCS categories may or may not relate directly to an institution's organisational units depending upon how closely organisational units correspond to objective-oriented programmes.

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REVISED PCS

A significant change was to bring activities under PCS 6.0 to academic administration (pg 27). The DHET has some reservations in regard to this as the general administration staff who have always worked with the student registrations, examinations, etc should not fall under academic administration. Furthermore this will impact on reporting as there will not be a link with historical reports.

There was a concern amongst the members of the task team that to completely re-number the categories would mean significant changes to existing HR systems, however the DHET has a concern that as the revised manual stands there would be a problem if a whole new category needs to be added at a later stage if we have within the current categories e.g academic support a category coded 1400. The principal of the logic has "disappeared".

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REVISED PCS

There agreement therefore amongst the task team members was that the document would go to the sector and from the feedback a final decision would be made on the numbering of the categories.

The DHET did do a search during the revision process for an update to the NCES IPEDS document but could not find any update at the time and also had to go back to the “contractor” who did the initial draft as reference had been made to NCES but did not tie up with information in the document so this has been removed from the references at the back of the manual.

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REVISED PCS

COMMENTS FOR DISCUSSION

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