




higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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VALPAC CHANGES AND UPDATES

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VALPAC UPDATES

- A contract was finalised in July 2018
- The new cesms for Clinical Technology to be included for 2018.
- Change required to table 2.7 to separate advanced diplomas from PG total. What about PGCE.
- Changes to table 2.9? Regarding headings.
- New Extended Curriculum Programme Policy will require a new element to enable the splitting of a course, e.g if the course has 60% foundation provision and 40% regular need to be able to identify this split. Expect to implement an element similar to 073.

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VALPAC UPDATES

- **Changes signaled in 2017 that will be required but to date not implemented.**
 - Being able to identify all sources of funding for students including if they are fee paying students.
 - An indicator to identify students who are in their first year of study for Masters and Doctoral degrees in order for DHET to undertake cohort studies for these students. May need something for Honours students and PG Dip students.
 - A new indicator in the staff data in order to be able to identify senior staff according to their rank and qualification such as VCs, Deans etc
 - Inclusion of the SAQA ID on the Qual file. – for final audited 2018 sub

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VALPAC UPDATES

- **Need to engage on a way forward to report students receiving NSFAS**
 - 2017 discussion - Have had discussions with NSFAS about a way forward on collecting the NSFAS information and will notify institutions in due course. They have indicated that currently institutions still need to notify them if a student has registered, so they have indicated that universities should be able to report if a student has received NSFAS. However, we may need to wait until the fees report has been released.

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VALPAC UPDATES

- **HEMIS DOCUMENTATION.**
 - The software contractors will be asked to work through all the validations and test them.
 - 00708 will need to be looked at – this is a warning but there needs to be a determination of how to handle errors that are due to the cancellation of the qualification but not the courses which results in no matching record in STUD.
 - Reporting on temporary staff members - In the old SAPSE manual 021(U) it states for the fte calculation “In this case his FTE value is derived from a calculation based on the fraction he/she is carrying of the work load of a typical full-time employee employed for 12 months”.

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VALPAC UPDATES

- **HEMIS DOCUMENTATION.**

- It then goes on to state “ the method universities must employ is that of making a realistic estimate of what fraction of the work load of a full-time lecturer the load of the part-time lecturer constitutes. This estimate must not be based on a calculation of actual number of hours spent by the part-time lecturer on university activities ”.
- The manual also shows a calculation using finance data but concludes that the calculation is misleadingly simple and should not be employed. The DHET therefore advocates the first option for determining the ftes for part-time/temporary staff and only if this is not possible then the payroll should be used.

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VALPAC UPDATES

- **HEMIS DOCUMENTATION.**

- The credit value calculation needs to be updated as the calculation should now be based on the NQF credits. There is some concern where NQF credits are all equal as the question would be, is this correct in terms of the required notional hours?
- A thorough assessment needs to be made of the glossary and updates need to be undertaken where relevant, e.g the inclusion of the NQF levels.
- Where required reference will be made to new policies, e.g distance education policy.

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VALPAC UPDATES

- SQLVALPAC has been released and it has been acknowledged that it is a complex installation. It was for this reason that initially the DHET never wanted to change to SQL. When there is a notification sent out regarding an update please download the update and use that version for data submissions. It has come to our attention that not all institutions are doing this. Institutions do not need to re-install the application they only have to overwrite the old exe with the new exe.
- For noting VALPAC is not an MIS tool it is a validation package.
- Universities may not instruct Praxis computing to make changes. All requests for changes must come through the DHET in order to comply with our change management policy and AG requirements.

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QUESTIONS?

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