

**SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SAQA)**

In accordance with Regulation 24(c) of the National Standards Bodies Regulations of 28 March 1998, the Task Team for

Dietetics

registered by Organising Field 09 – Health Sciences and Social Services, publishes the following Qualification for public comment.

This notice contains the titles, fields, sub-fields, NQF levels, credits, and purpose of the Qualification. The full Qualification can be accessed via the SAQA web-site at www.saqqa.org.za. Copies may also be obtained from the Directorate of Standards Setting and Development at the SAQA offices, SAQA House, 1067 Arcadia Street, Hatfield, Pretoria.

Comment on the Qualification should reach SAQA at the address below and **no later than 31 Augusts 2009**. All correspondence should be marked **Standards Setting – Task Team for Dietetics** and addressed to

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D. MPHUTHING**ACTING DIRECTOR: STANDARDS SETTING AND DEVELOPMENT**



SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

QUALIFICATION:
Bachelor of Science: Dietetics

SAQA QUAL ID		QUALIFICATION TITLE	
73169		Bachelor of Science: Dietetics	
ORIGINATOR		PROVIDER	
TT - Dietetics			
QUALIFICATION TYPE	FIELD	SUBFIELD	
Professional Qualification	9 - Health Sciences and Social Services	Promotive Health and Developmental Services	
ABET BAND	MINIMUM CREDITS	NQF LEVEL	QUAL CLASS
Undefined	480	Level 7	Regular-ELOAC

This qualification does not replace any other qualification and is not replaced by another qualification.

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION

Purpose:

This Qualification is intended to develop a learner with the scientific knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to practice independently in any of the areas of therapeutic nutrition, community nutrition and food service management, in line with national and international trends.

The qualifying learner will be able to function independently within the public and private sectors by competently applying an integration of theoretical principles, proven techniques, practical experience and appropriate skills in order to:

- Provide an independent, specialized nutritional service to all sectors of the community.
- Apply management, education and research skills in a supervisory, clinical governance and/or quality assurance capacity within the healthcare and food service environments.
- Uphold professional and ethical standards of practice.
- Become a reflective practitioner and life long learner within the area of nutrition.

Successful completion of this Qualification will enable the learner to register as a Dietician with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

Although the Qualification falls within the sub-field of Promotive Health and Developmental Services, it is also applicable to the other three sub-fields, viz., Preventive Health, Curative Health and Rehabilitative Health and Services.

Rationale:

This Qualification in dietetics is based on a need in the market for competent dietetic practitioners (dietitians) who are in possession of graduate-level scientific knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to practice independently in any of the areas of therapeutic (clinical) nutrition, community nutrition and food service management, in line with national and international trends and who can be registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as independent practitioners.

This Qualification aims to promote an understanding of the multi-disciplinary approach to effective, efficient patient care. In addition, this Qualification aims to produce a professional

practitioner who will take cognisance of South African history and will be able to adapt to the unique circumstances of a changing South Africa with emphasis on equity in health care, social upliftment and reduction of the burden of disease.

RECOGNIZE PREVIOUS LEARNING?

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LEARNING ASSUMED IN PLACE

It is assumed that learners are competent in:

- Communication at NQF Level 4.
- Mathematics at NQF Level 4.
- Life Sciences at NQF Level 4.

It is strongly recommended that the learner also be competent in basic computer skills.

Recognition of Prior Learning:

This Qualification may be achieved in part through Recognition of Prior Learning, in accordance with the policies and procedures of the individual institutions and in agreement with the relevant ETQA, on presenting relevant evidence that meets the outcomes stated in the Qualification document.

Access to the Qualification:

Learners accessing this Qualification will be expected to be in possession of a Grade 12 Qualification or recognised equivalent, at NQF Level 4, and comply with the selection policy of the relevant Provider with the agreement of the relevant ETQA.

QUALIFICATION RULES

The Fundamental Component of the Qualification is compulsory and comprises natural sciences that form the basis of nutritional and dietetics learning, as well as the managerial, ethical and legal learning components, to the value of 144 Credits.

The Core Component of the Qualification is compulsory and comprises all the learning essential to the practice of dietetics, to the value of 320 Credits.

The Elective Component must be completed for the learner to be awarded this Qualification and takes the form of a research project based on professionally directed subjects/areas of choice to the minimum value of 16 Credits.

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES

1. Apply the principles of professional ethics and relevant current legislation in interactions with clients and colleagues.
2. Apply and uphold the principles of the Bill of Rights whilst interacting with colleagues and patients taking human diversity into account.
 - Range of diversity: Race, culture, religion, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, political orientation, age, differential abilities, socio-economic status.
3. Apply the foundational knowledge and principles of natural sciences in a nutritional context.
4. Assess and evaluate the nutritional status and concomitant health risks of individuals and groups in communities and institutions.

5. Develop, implement, evaluate and document community-based nutritional services for specific groups.
 - Range of groups: Children from birth to puberty; adolescents; adults; pregnant women; the elderly.
6. Integrate and apply appropriate approaches and techniques to effectively manage a clinical nutritional service.
7. Develop research skills and conduct a research project within the field of nutrition and present the project according to required research practice.

Critical Cross-Field Outcomes:

- Identifying and solving problems using critical and creative thinking are demonstrated in the assessment and treatment of patients.
- Working effectively with others as a member of the team, group, organisation and community is demonstrated within the context of providing a comprehensive nutritional service.
- Organising and managing oneself and one's activities responsibly and effectively is demonstrated in the preparation for presenting and managing a nutrition service.
- Collecting, analysing, organising and critically evaluating information is demonstrated in the assessment and treatment of patients.
- Communicating effectively using visual, mathematical and/or language skills in the modes of oral and or written presentation is demonstrated through reports and the handover of patients to other services and in demonstrating cultural and aesthetic sensitivity when dealing with patients, colleagues and communities.
- Effective use of science and technology, showing responsibility towards the environment and health of others is demonstrated in all the actions required in providing a successful nutrition service.
- Demonstrating an understanding of the world as a set of related systems by recognising that problem solving contexts do not exist in isolation is demonstrated in all the actions required in providing nutrition services in a variety of settings.

ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 1:

- 1.1 Patients' physical and psychological needs are recognised, assessed and responded to with due regard for human dignity.
- 1.2 Ethical codes, professional accountability and responsibility and standards for the practice of dietetics are applied consistently in interactions with patients, colleagues and social contacts outside of the working milieu.
- 1.3 All interactions with patients, colleagues and other stakeholders promote human dignity and are undertaken with due sensitivity to ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious and gender diversity.
- 1.4 Ethical principles of beneficence, autonomy, justice, truth telling, promise keeping and confidentiality are appropriately applied in all contexts in accordance with the provisions and rules of the Codes of Ethics of the Health Professional Council of South Africa and professional associations.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 2:

- 2.1 Patient rights are acknowledged and adhered to at all times according to the Bill of Rights and Patient Charter.
- 2.2 Effective and appropriate communication is engaged in with the patient and other members of the health care team in a multicultural context with due regard for human dignity and patient confidentiality.
- 2.3 Practice demonstrates awareness of different viewpoints and values and the ability to appreciate these in relation to own views and values.