

No. 922

5 October 2007

**SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SAQA)**

In accordance with Regulation 24(c) of the National Standards Bodies Regulations of 28 March 1998, the Standards Generating Body (SGB) for

**Nursing**

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.saqa.org.za](http://www.saqa.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 5 November 2007**. All correspondence should be marked **Standards Setting – Nursing** and addressed to

The Director: Standards Setting and Development  
SAQA

*Attention: Mr. D. Mphuthing*

Postnet Suite 248

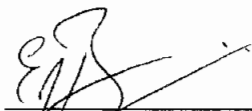
Private Bag X06

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e-mail: [dmphuthing@saqa.org.za](mailto:dmphuthing@saqa.org.za)

  
PP **DR. S. BHIKHA**

**DIRECTOR: STANDARDS SETTING AND DEVELOPMENT**



## SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

**QUALIFICATION:**  
**PhD: Nursing**

SAQA QUAL ID		QUALIFICATION TITLE	
59296		PhD: Nursing	
ORIGINATOR		PROVIDER	
SGB Nursing			
QUALIFICATION TYPE	FIELD	SUBFIELD	
Doctoral Degree	9 - Health Sciences and Social Services	Curative Health	
ABET BAND	MINIMUM CREDITS	NQF LEVEL	QUAL CLASS
Undefined	360	Level 8 and above	Regular-ELOAC

**PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION**

Purpose:

Learners credited with this qualification will be able to:

- Conduct independent research.
- Develop research capacity in others.
- Increase the knowledge base of the nursing profession.

Rationale:

This qualification is necessary in order to provide South Africa with a cadre of leaders in nursing who are able to provide strategic guidance and anticipate new developments as well as ensuring that existing research is implemented.

**RECOGNIZE PREVIOUS LEARNING?**

Y

**LEARNING ASSUMED IN PLACE**

- Be in possession of an existing Master's degree in a health profession or recognized equivalent.
- Understanding of the process, philosophical and scientific foundations of nursing research.
- Expert knowledge and skills in a specialized field of nursing practice, education and/or management.

Recognition of Prior Learning:

- Learners provide evidence of meeting the outcomes of the degree by producing published research material around a specific theme.

Access to Qualification:

- Possession of any Master's degree or equivalent recognized for the purpose of access to this degree.

**QUALIFICATION RULES**

The qualification will be awarded on full completion of the qualification. The Exit Level Outcomes are weighted for credit allocation as follows:

**Exit Level Outcome; Credits:**

- Demonstrate a comprehensive and systematic grasp of the body of knowledge of a selected field/sub-field of nursing; 60.
  - Demonstrate a critical understanding of the most advanced research methodologies, techniques and technologies in the selected field/sub-field of nursing; 60.
  - Identify, conceptualize, design and implement original research projects that address complex issues in nursing; 90.
- Demonstrate the ability to participate in and contribute to scholarly debates in the chosen field/sub-field; 150.

Total Credits; 360.

**EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES**

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive and systematic grasp of the body of knowledge of a selected field/sub-field of nursing.
2. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the most advanced research methodologies, techniques and technologies in the selected field/sub-field of nursing.
3. Identify, conceptualize, design and implement original research projects that address complex issues in nursing.
4. Demonstrate the ability to participate in and contribute to scholarly debates in the chosen field/sub-field.

**ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 1:

- 1.1 An appropriate area at the forefront of the discipline or field of professional practice is selected for future study.
- 1.2 The capacity to operate autonomously in specialized, complex, ill-defined and unpredictable contexts is demonstrated.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 2:

- 2.1 A meaningful contribution is made to scholarly debates at the cutting edge of the area of specialization.
- 2.2 Knowledge, theory and research methods are applied creatively to complex practical, theoretical and epistemological problems by undertaking advanced research, which expands the knowledge of the field and is judged publishable by research publication panels/boards.
- 2.3 Research leadership is provided by guiding and supervising Masters level students.
- 2.4 An adequate body of advanced information relating to the selected field/sub-field is independently retrieved and processed.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 3:

- 3.1 Significant problems of a complex and ill-defined nature are analysed and clarified by means of original research.
- 3.2 The work of other researchers is coordinated and integrated into major original research projects.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 4:

- 4.1 A doctoral thesis conforming to international standards is submitted for assessment.

4.2 Research findings are presented to specialist and non-specialist audiences using all the resources of academic and professional discourse.

4.3 At least two articles based on doctoral research in the selected field/sub-fields are selected for publication.

#### Integrated Assessment:

Assessment for this qualification will be in accordance with the policy of the educational institution for awarding the degree of Doctor in Research. Assessment is based on a completed, original dissertation/ thesis.

#### **INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY**

South Africa is an active member of the International Council for Nursing (ICN) as well as the International Labour Organisation (ILO), member of the African Union (AU), (formerly the Organisation of African Unity), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Commonwealth of Nations. The proposed qualification would meet recognition requirements in most of the member countries of these organisations and throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

The ongoing complexity of technology and the increasing acuity levels of the patients being cared for demand a capacity to self-evaluate, to exercise personal responsibility and initiative and indicate a depth of knowledge and a high level of skill and competence in specialized health care units.

High levels of trauma and critical illness in the country lead to complex demands on nurses to utilize rapid meta-cognitive problem solving skills in the resolution of concrete and abstract critical issues.

The decline of learners entering the nursing profession has been a matter of great concern to the South African Nursing Council and to the Ministry of Health. The problem is discussed in the Human Resources Plan for Health, which the Minister of Health launched in April 2006 and emphasis is given to recruitment of more learners into professional nursing. The registration of a Masters Certificate:

- Nursing and a PhD in Nursing is seen as important in providing an extended learning pathway, and promoting the uptake of graduate and postgraduate qualifications.

An examination of the qualifications in operation in ICN signatory countries, clearly indicates the alignment of this qualification with international practice.

#### **ARTICULATION OPTIONS**

The PhD in Nursing articulates with postdoctoral degrees in the health sciences as determined by the provider higher education institution.

#### **MODERATION OPTIONS**

- Moderation to be conducted by both internal and external moderators accredited the relevant ETQA or ETQA that has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the relevant ETQA.
- Both internal and external moderators must be in possession of an appropriate, recognised doctoral qualification.
- Internal moderators appointed by the provider in agreement with the relevant ETQA or ETQA that has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the relevant ETQA.
- External moderators, one of whom must be outside South Africa, are appointed by the relevant ETQA or ETQA that has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the relevant ETQA.

**CRITERIA FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ASSESSORS**

Internal and external assessors must be:

- In possession of a relevant doctoral qualification.
- Accredited **as** doctoral assessors by the relevant ETQA or ETQA that has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the relevant ETQA.

**NOTES**

N/A

**UNIT STANDARDS**

*This qualification ~~is~~ not based on Unit Standards.*

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