



Protecting the Public and Guiding the Professions

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON THE FORENSIC PATHOLOGY OFFICERS REGISTRATION

Proposed FPO syllabi

13 NOVEMBER 2017



Protecting the Public and Guiding the Professions

Background

The syllabi must deliver a training programme that will produce a Forensic Pathology Officer qualified to practice his /her scope of profession and scope of practice.

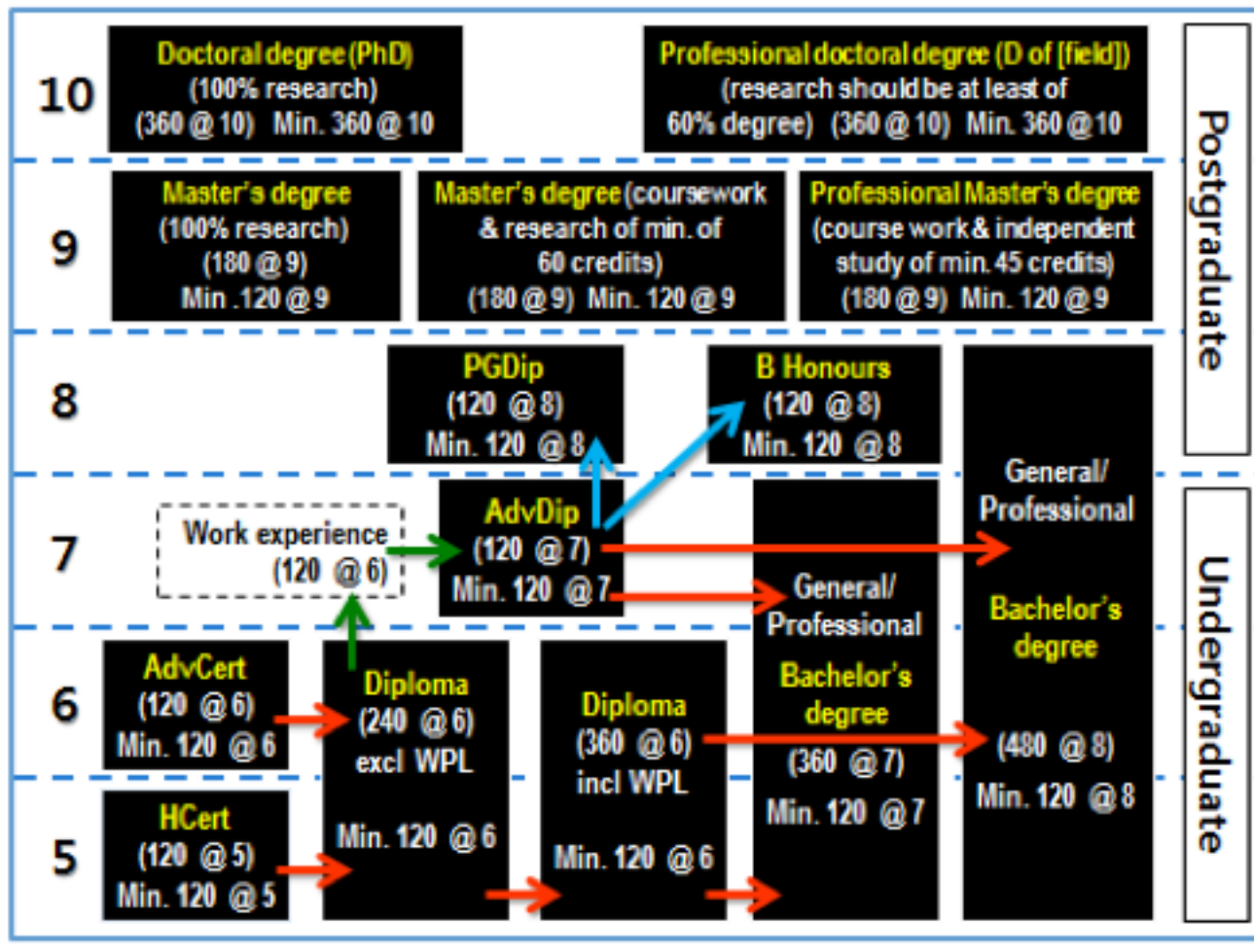
A small workgroup was tasked by the National Department of Health to work on the proposed diploma as well as the scope of practice and scope of profession for the Forensic Pathology officer.

The original SAQA qualification had to be re-worked due to changes in the qualifications framework and also the manner in which training programmes are being presented (move from unit standards to subjects).

The qualification should be a 360 credit diploma (NQF6). This is informed by the content (Breadth and depth of knowledge required)



Explanation of the way in which the NQF levels and credits link (Source: Ms M Bester CPUT).



Draft Scope of Profession

The following acts are hereby specified by the board under section 33 as acts which shall, for the purposes of the Act, be deemed to be acts pertaining to the forensic pathology officer profession:

- (a) Provide specialised medico-legal support in the provision of a forensic pathology service;
- (b) Communicate with role-players in the interests of justice and offer professional service delivery within the forensic pathology service domain;
- (c) Perform administrative duties in the provision of a forensic pathology service;
- (d) Apply current legislation, regulations and ethical principles in the provision of a forensic pathology service;
- (e) Gather and preserve evidence and information in support of a forensic pathology service;
- (f) Apply principles of good laboratory practice in a forensic pathology environment.



Draft Scope of Practice Stakeholder meeting\Draft Regulations - Scope of Practice for FPO - NFPSC - 9 Nov 2016.docx



Rationale and background

This qualification must provide a learning pathway to assistants in the field of forensic pathology services.

This qualification, in line with legislation, will assist with standardisation in the field of forensic pathology services and will empower FPOs to practice within their scope of profession and practice

The purpose is to ensure highly trained allied health professionals who provide various services under the direction and/or supervision and/or guidance of a registered forensic pathologist / forensic medical practitioner.

Benchmarking was conducted with the following countries by means of questionnaires: USA, Australia and Namibia. This questionnaire interrogated the competencies required by a person in a similar role to that of the forensic pathology officer in South Africa, in order to determine whether the qualification has incorporated all the necessary competencies.



Rationale and background

Research was also done into "component standards" and competencies required internationally and these have been used extensively in confirming the requirements for this qualification, even though there appears to be no international qualification that matches the competency requirements exactly.

In the absence of a suitable similar qualification, a comparison of the duties and skills of personnel assisting in providing the forensic pathology service was done.

The research conducted across a number of countries generally found that the training courses for "Pathologist's Assistants" were at a higher level than required for this qualification.

Many of the qualifications identified for this person required that learners have an undergraduate degree. (For example, the assistant forensic scientist in the UK, Germany, Poland, Philippines, as well as the pathology assistant in the USA.



Rationale and Background

The National workshop constituted a smaller working group to curriculate the qualification and develop regulations for the HPCSA.

Three provincial health departments, two UOTs, one comprehensive university and the HPCSA formed part of this smaller working group.

Members of the smaller working group also formed part of a committee constituted by National government (Department of Health). This National committee also tasked the smaller working group to curriculate the qualification and develop regulations for the HPCSA.

This qualification will allow for the flexibility of career pathing for forensic pathology officers, both vertically and horizontally, through personal growth and job advancement within and across the health sector.

Therefore the qualification provides learners with operational competencies as well as management skills, including supervision, mentoring and leadership placing them at the heart of technology education and innovation in Africa and abroad.



Qualification: Diploma: Forensic Pathology Support **NQF : L6**

YEAR 1:

Professional Communication

Anatomy, Physiology and Trauma 1A and 1B

Ethics and Law

Health Chemistry

Health Physics

Biochemistry

Behavioural Sciences

Biostatistics



Qualification: Diploma: Forensic Pathology Support **NQF : L6**

Broad Knowledge Areas

YEAR 2:

Forensic Pathology Practice

Forensic Pathology Science 2A & 2B

Ethics, Law and Professional Conduct 2A & 2B

Behavioural Sciences

Administration and Management : General

Forensic Pathology

Administration and Management

YEAR 3:

Applied Forensic Pathology Practice

Applied Forensic Pathology Management

Work Integrated Learning

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THANK YOU

Acknowledgements:

National Department of Health
Provincial Departments of Health

DUT
CPUT

Members of the National workgroup

