



*The South
African
National
Qualifications
Framework*



NQF Act makes provision for an integrated National Qualifications Framework (NQF) consisting of three sub-frameworks, each developed and managed by a Quality Council

Sub Framework	Quality Council responsible
General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub framework (GFETQSF)	Umalusi
Higher Education Qualifications Sub Framework (HEQSF)	Council on Higher Education (CHE)
Trades and Occupations Qualifications Sub Framework commonly known as Occupational Qualifications Sub Framework (OQSF)	Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO)

Interrelatedness of three sub-frameworks

G&FET Qualifications framework

General
educational
qualifications

Academic or
vocational

NQF level 1-5
NQF 5 Further
Certificate

Trade & Occupations Qualifications framework

Occupational
qualifications
8 major groupings of the
Organising Framework for
Occupations

NQF 5-10
OFO groupings of
managers,
professionals,
technicians & associate
professionals

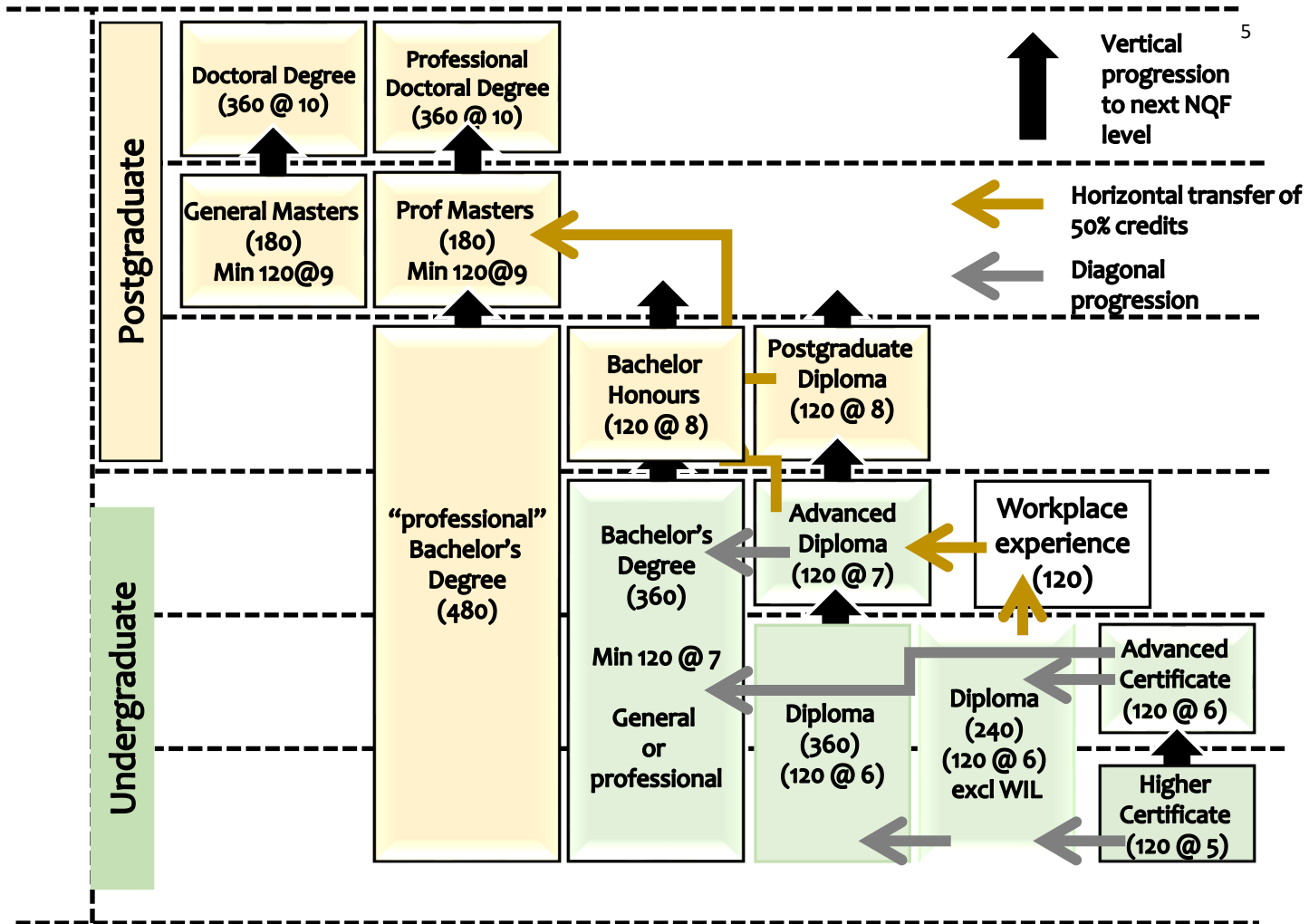
Higher Education Qualifications framework

General
academic
Professional
Occupational
qualifications

NQF 5-10
11 qualification
types
Undergraduate &
postgraduate

NQF Level	Sub-Framework and Qualifications Types (GG :36003 – 14 Dec 2012)	
10	Doctoral Degree Doctoral Degree (Professional)	*
9	Master's Degree Master's Degree (Professional)	*
8	Bachelor Honours Degree Post Graduate Diploma Bachelor's Degree	*
7	Bachelor 's Degree Advanced Diploma	*
6	Diploma Advanced Certificate	Occupational Certificate (Level 6)
5	Higher Certificate	Occupational Certificate (Level 5)
4	National Certificate	Occupational Certificate (Level 4)
3	Intermediate Certificate	Occupational Certificate (Level 3)
2	Elementary Certificate	Occupational Certificate (Level 2)
1	General Certificate	Occupational Certificate (Level 1)

HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATION SUB-FRAMEWORK (2013)



Qualification Variants

240 Credit Diploma (No WIL)

Level 6 – Two years

360 Credit Diploma

Level 6 – three years

Same Level but Not Equivalent

360 Credit degree

Level 7 – Three year

480 Credit degree

Level 8 – Four Years

Different levels - Not Equivalent

Course work Masters
(MTech / Master of ..)

Full thesis Masters
(MTech / Master of ...)

Equivalent

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Doctor of ... /DTech

Equivalent

EQUIVALENCE

**HEQF
(2007)**

Doctorate
240 Credits
Level 8

Master's
120
Level 8

**Bachelor of
Technology**
120 Credits
Level 7

National Diploma
360 Credits
Level 6

**HEQSF
(2013)**

Doctorate
360 Credits
Level 10

Master's
180
Level 9

Postgraduate Diploma
120 Credits
Level 8

Advanced Diploma
120 Credits
Level 7

Diploma
360 Credits
Level 6



QCTO mandate in SDA

- The QCTO is responsible for:
 - establishing and maintaining occupational standards and qualifications
 - the quality assurance of occupational standards and qualifications and learning in and for the workplace
 - designing and developing occupational standards and qualifications and submitting them to the SAQA for registration on the NQF
 - ensuring the quality of occupational standards and qualifications and learning in and for the workplace
(SDA, 2008, Section 26H)

SDA: ‘Occupational Qualification means **a qualification associated with a trade, occupation or profession** resulting from work-based learning and consisting of knowledge unit standards, practical unit standards and work experience unit standards’

Purpose of Occupational Qualifications

The purpose of an occupational qualification is **to qualify a learner to practice an occupation**, reflected on the Organising Framework for Occupations (OFO) or an occupational specialisation related to an occupation that is reflected on the OFO.

Considerations ...

- 1) Consider qualifications across pathways
 - traditional universities and UoTs
 - Formative degrees (B Arts) –traditional universities
 - Professional qualifications – traditional universities and UoTs
- 2) Consider institution types – traditional universities / comprehensive universities and UoTs
- 3) Consider equivalence of qualifications – the same level does not mean equivalence in qualifications
- 4) Consider credit allocation of qualifications across qualification pathways – this suggests equivalence of qualifications
- 5) Consider the discipline and field of study for particular positions
- 6) Consider professional body qualifications – Chartered Accountant - not part of NQF – certification from professional body