South African Nursing Council

(Under the provisions of the Nursing Act, 2005)

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DIPLOMA IN NURSING: STAFF NURSE QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK

SAQA QUAL ID	QUALIFICATION TITLE		
N/A	Diploma in Nursing: Staff Nurse		
ORIGINATOR		**REGISTERING PROVIDER**	
SANC			
QUALITY ASSURING ETQA			
CHE and SANC			
QUALIFICATION TYPE	**FIELD**	**SUBFIELD**	
Diploma	Field 09 - Health Sciences and Social Services	Promotive, Preventive, Curative Health and Developmental Services	
ABET BAND	**MINIMUM CREDITS**	**NQF LEVEL**	**QUAL CLASS**
Undefined	360	Level 6	Whole qualification

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

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION

Purpose:

This qualification will enable the learner to function as a clinically focused, service orientated, independent Registered Staff Nurse, who is able to render nursing care as determined by the appropriate legislative framework.

The qualification will provide a basis for decision-making about what is within and beyond the defined scope of practice, as well as understanding of the referral system in place for anything outside of the scope of practice. The diplomate will apply evidence-based nursing practice which is based on research or established practices that have proven to be effective both nationally and internationally within the profession.

On successful completion of this qualification, the learner is eligible for registration with the South African Nursing Council as a Staff Nurse.

The qualification aims to:

- Produce high quality diplomates who are able to be competent nursing practitioners in a range of health service settings
- Provide diplomates with a range of skills, knowledge and attitudes that will enable them to make a meaningful and sustained contribution to health services
- Equip diplomates with a developed sense of equity, justice and service ethics that will ensure that they work in an accountable manner, irrespective of their chosen work place
- Offer a wide range of transferable skills for application in other professions, disciplines and general life. These include:
    - A methodical, solution-based approach to problem solving
    - An empowerment strengths-based approach to personal development
    - Competence in written and oral communication
    - Capacity to assess and implement health and other policies
    - Ability to plan, implement and manage projects of a varied nature
    - Ability to work independently and as part of a team

Attributes

The Diplomate who completes this qualification will be able to:

- Maintain professionalism in own practice of nursing
- Apply knowledge of biomedical, biotechnological and psycho-social sciences to the practice of nursing
- Develop, implement and evaluate population-based health care
- Assess, plan, implement and evaluate nursing care for individuals and groups with stable, uncomplicated health problems based on thorough assessment
- Deliver nursing care to sick or disabled individuals and groups with stable uncomplicated health problems
- Promote rehabilitation of individuals and groups with disabilities
- Diagnose and treat minor ailments
- Deliver safe maternal care
- Manage a health care unit
- Utilise principles of science and methodology in investigating nursing and health-related problems

Rationale:

This qualification is intended to prepare the qualifying learner as a generalist nurse who will be able to meet the service delivery needs of the country. The nurse with this qualification has a significant contribution to make in the current situation of human resources in health in South Africa, taking into consideration the country's historical background and the shortage of professional nurses and doctors in the country. The practice of this nurse is focused on quality service delivery within a broad spectrum of health services and in a variety of settings, including rural areas.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Learners wishing to enrol for this qualification must have:

- Access to this qualification is National Senior Certificate or an equivalent qualification at exit level 3 and 4

LEARNING ASSUMED TO BE IN PLACE AND RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

- Communication Skills at NQF Level 4
- Mathematical Literacy at NQF Level 4
- Computer Literacy at NQF Level 3
- Life Science at NQF level 4

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) for access to this qualification or credit bearing exemptions, an application must be submitted according to the RPL policy of the Nursing Education Institution for individual assessment

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

In terms of current relevant legislation:

- The Nursing Education Institution (NEI) is required to register learners with the South African Nursing as for the duration of the period of training
- The NEI can only offer programmes and accept students for approved and accredited qualification
- Learners must have access to approved clinical facilities according to training regulations issued by SANC that has a Memorandum of Agreement in place.

QUALIFICATION RULES

Total Credits: 360 of which 197 credits must be acquired in appropriate and accredited clinical facilities and 70% of clinical acquired credits must be supervised and mentored.

QUALIFICATION MATRIX

	THEORY CREDITS	WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING PRACTICAL CREDITS	TOTAL CREDITS
1. FUNDAMENTAL	32		32
2. CORE	131	197	328
TOTAL:	163	197	360

Note to table:

Hours are interpreted as notional hours (1 credit = 10 notional hours)

1970 Hours work integrated learning (which can be work-based, clinical skills laboratory or other clinical experiences) of which 70% must be supervised and mentored.

ARTICULATION OPTIONS

This qualification, National Diploma in Nursing: Staff Nurse, articulates with the Advanced Diploma: Midwifery at NQF level 7, Professional Degree: Nursing and Midwifery at NQF Level 8

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES

1. Provide nursing care throughout the lifespan in various healthcare settings
2. Render nursing care within a legal and ethical framework
3. Apply knowledge of natural and biological sciences in the practice of nursing
4. Apply knowledge of psycho-social sciences in the practice of nursing
5. Apply knowledge of pharmacology in nursing practice
6. Use and maintain healthcare information systems for nursing practice
7. Manage a healthcare unit by implementing the management process
8. Provide reproductive health care to promote and maintain optimum health of individuals and families

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES AND ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

FUNDAMENTAL	
EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES	**ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**
1. Apply knowledge of natural and biological sciences in the practice of nursing	1.1 Knowledge of anatomy and physiology is applied in caring for the health care user 1.2 Knowledge of microbiology is applied in caring for the health care user
2. Apply knowledge of psycho-social sciences in the practice of nursing	2.1 Knowledge of psychology and sociology is applied in ways which benefits the quality of healthcare delivered to health care users 2.2 Knowledge of human behaviour and psychological development throughout the life span is understood and applied 2.3 Social and diversity-sensitive care is implemented in nursing practice 2.4 A range of psychological emergency situations are identified and managed accordingly 2.5 Emotional demands of nursing practice are dealt with effectively
3. Apply knowledge of pharmacology in nursing practice	3.1 Knowledge of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics is applied in nursing practice within the applicable scope of practice 3.2 Medications are prescribed, controlled, dispensed and administered in various healthcare settings within legislative requirements
CORE	
EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES	**ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**
4. Provide nursing care throughout the lifespan in various healthcare settings	4.1 Preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative nursing care is provided to different age groups in various health care settings
5. Render nursing care within a legal and ethical framework	5.1 Nursing care is rendered within an ethical legal framework
6. Use and maintain healthcare information systems for nursing practice	6.1 Healthcare information systems are used and maintained in the practice of nursing
7. Manage a healthcare unit by implementing the management process	7.1 Implement the management process in managing a health care unit
8. Provide reproductive health care to promote and maintain optimum health of individuals and families	8.1 The optimum health of individuals and families is promoted and maintained through the provision of reproductive health care

CRITICAL CROSS-FIELD OUTCOMES

1. Identifying and solving problems in which responses indicate that responsible decisions using critical and creative thinking have been made
2. Working effectively with others as a member of a team, group, organization or community
3. Organizing and managing oneself and one's activities responsibly and effectively
4. Collecting, analyzing, organizing and critically evaluating information
5. Communicating effectively using visual, mathematical and/or language skills in the modes of oral/written persuasion
6. Using science and technology effectively and critically, showing responsibility towards the environment and health of others
7. Demonstrating and understanding of the world as a set of related systems by recognizing that problem-solving contexts do not exist in isolation

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

Integrated Assessment

All assessment should be conducted in line with assessment policy of the NEI

INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

The proposed qualification would meet recognition requirements throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Fundamental   means: the learning which forms the grounding or basis to undertake education, training or further learning required in the obtaining of a qualification.

Core   means: that compulsory learning required in situations contextually relevant to the particular qualification.