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Qualification reference number: 2740

Authorised Qualification name: Master of Social Science in Counselling Psychology

Directorate: Accreditation

Council on Higher Education

P.O. Box 94

Persequor Park

PRETORIA

0020

Email: heqsfonline@che.ac.za

Dear Colleagues

RESPONSE TO THE DEFERRAL OF THE HEQSF-ALIGNMENT AND ACCREDITATION

HEQSF review comment

"The curriculum design needs clarification with regard to credits for the internship. The notional hours are indicated in the table of learning activities but this is not aligned with the credits for the modules. The university must ensure that the requirements for professional registration are correctly stated."

Response to Accreditation Panel's comment:

The UFS appreciates the extension granted for this submission. The internship is not credit bearing. The internship takes place during the second year of the programme and the UFS strictly adheres to the guideline provided by the HPCSA with regard to the internship. In particular, the following three documents are adhered to:

- HPCSA Form 160: Policy regarding intern psychologists: Guidelines for universities, internship training institutions and intern psychologists. This document provides the roles and obligations of the training institution (the internship institution) and the role and obligations of collaborating universities. It is



stipulated that the University should act in an overarching supervisory capacity. Also, that the university meets with the intern twice at a minimum, but preferably four times per year.

- HPCSA Form 103: Criteria for the Training and for the Accreditation of Institutions offering Training of Intern-Psychologists)
- HPCSA Form 105: Information for Institutions that wish to apply for the accreditation of training of intern Counselling Psychologists

After successful completion of the first year of the programme at the UFS (120 credits), students register at the HPCSA as Intern Psychologists. Students can then apply at any registered internship placement, the training institution, for counselling psychology. The training institution must be accredited by the HPCSA. At the UFS students register for the module COUI7900, carrying zero credits as the internship is completed at the training institution. Successful completion of the internship is confirmed by the signing of off the intern duty certificate by both the training institution and the UFS.

Main Rules A (HPCSA Form 103) applies:

The Training Institution

Training can only be recognised if it takes place in an approved institution on a full-time basis (40 hours per week) over a minimum period of one year

Interns become employees of the accredited institution and the credits are applicable to the training programme of the accredited institution. The internship year (Year 2 of the Master of Social Science in Counselling Psychology) is strictly implemented according to the guidelines provided by the HPCSA (Form 103). The university remains the overseeing body and it is expected of the internship supervisor at the training institution to submit quarterly reports. The following extracts of the guidelines from this HPCSA (103) document indicate some of the responsibility of the UFS in its overseeing capacity:

1 D. Maintenance of Standards

The maintenance of the standard of training is delegated to the psychology departments of South-African universities, in collaboration with institutions accredited by the Professional Board for internship purposes

2 GENERAL CRITERIA

C (2) Training programme

*Before candidates start their intern training a programme must be drawn up by the head of the department concerned in the training institution, or supervising psychologist, **in collaboration with the head or appointed lecturer of the psychology department of the supervising university.***

(3) Procedure in the event of unsatisfactory intern progress

*In the event that doubt arises regarding the competence or progress of an intern the head or deputy-head of the department of the training institution concerned **must liaise with the supervising university department.***

*In the case of termination of an internship **the supervising university department shall advise the Council** regarding any extent to which the candidate should receive recognition for the internship training received and whether the candidate should be allowed the opportunity to complete the internship elsewhere.*

(4) Certification

After completion of the period of service at the training institution an intern duty certificate must be signed by the head of the department of the training institution, the head of the supervising university department as well as the administrative head of the training institution or their official deputies.

The HPCSA requested that the universities are delinked from the internship institutions. The supervising psychologist at the training institution, in collaboration with the university, reviews the intern students' progress and signs the 12 month internship off after completion. This document is referred to as the intern duty certificate. The internship is thus (although with its own module code) integrated as part of the overall programme, completed at the accredited training institution.

Notional hours and learning activities

The overall credits for the programme are 240 (2400 notional hours). In the first year 120 credits are obtained for course work. The other 120 credits are obtained for the mini-dissertation (COUR7900). For the degree of MSocSc (Counselling Psychology) to be conferred by the UFS, students must successfully complete:

Year 1: Counselling psychology (**COUN7900**) of 120 credits. The WIL 300 hours that are indicated refers to the practical work that students do as part of this module

Year 2: Mini-dissertation (**COUR7900**) of 120 credits

Year 2: Counselling Psychology Internship (**COUI7900**) of zero credits (at the UFS, but accredited by the training institution). Successful completion of the internship is certified by the intern duty certificate.

Total credits: 240

Revised table of learning activities:

Type of learning activity	Hours	% of learning time
Direct contact time	300	12.25%
WIL Practical experiential learning, simulated learning, laboratory work, practicals etc. excluding workplace-based learning. (This refers to the work based learning that takes place during the first year when student do supervised psychotherapy at a number of schools or with individual adult clients. This does not refer to the 12 month internship during the second year).	300	12.25 %
Hours for WIL. This refers to the second year of masters training when students do an accredited internship at an HPCSA accredited training institution. The programme must include a 40 hour per week activity for a 12-month period. The HPCSA requested that the internship is delinked from the universities, therefore no credits and these hours will not add up to the total hours.	(40 hours per week, 12 month internship at training institution)	
Hours for Independent self-study of standard texts and references and specially prepared materials (study guides, books, journal articles, case studies, multi-media)	500	20.83%
Assessment	100	4.16%
Other: Mini-dissertation	1200	50%
Total	2400	100%


Requirements for professional registration

The UFS adheres to the HPCSA requirements for professional registration as stipulated in the internal document: UFS Master's Programme in Clinical and Counselling Psychology: Information Booklet 2015 (attached). Registration strictly done according to the following HPCSA guidelines:

- HPCSA 258: Framework for education, training, registration and scope of registered counsellors . Scope of practice for the profession of Psychology
- HPCSA Form 160: Guidelines for universities, internship training institutions and intern psychologists
- HPCSA Form 105: Information for Institutions that wish to apply for the accreditation of training of intern Counselling Psychologists.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support. We trust that you will find this response adequate to validate this programme's accreditation and HEQSF-alignment.

Kind regards



Ms SJ Paulse

Deputy Director: Directorate for Research and Institutional Planning