CHE Improvement response: Bachelor of Administration Honours in Public Administration (98449)

* ***Suggestion that two compulsory modules other than research methodology, research proposal and research report are included to enrich the honours degree programme. It is problematic to make this honours degree a research based programme and thus limit or narrow the learning outcome of any honours degree in the field of study. Regarding research, it must be a discrete component of research***.

The HEQSF requires a minimum of 30 credits for research in the curriculum of Honours degrees. The Unisa PQM model has been designed in terms of 12 credit modules. To provide for the 30 research credits, Unisa has allocated 3x12 credits = 36 credits to research. The curriculum includes research to the value of 36 credits which include research proposal and research report. This was a decision by the Unisa Senate.

According to the Unisa PROPOSAL FOR THE STRUCTURE AND DELIVERY OF POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS (approved by Senate 27 August 2008):

‘The outcome of the module will be an acceptable research proposal (12 credits) and is considered to be a research module since the research proposal is completed under supervision. The purpose of the module is primarily to guide students in a formalized manner to prepare an acceptable research proposal.’

Unisa Senate approval 2 June 2010: The purpose of making the modules on research proposal writing a prerequisite is to ensure that the student does not proceed with the dissertation or thesis before she or he has completed the research proposal.

Unisa considers the research proposal as an integral part of the total research component of the doctoral qualification.