

**WALTER SISULU UNIVERSITY (19)**

**FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES**

**Bachelor of Science Honours in Geography (GEO)**

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HEQSF Category B Alignment Questions

*Note: Please note that all references to criteria made in this document refer to the Criteria for Programme Accreditation*

**COMPULSORY QUESTIONS**

1. Complete the table below indicating the specific amendments to the design of the learning programme that have been made. Please ensure that you indicate whether a module of the programmes has been added, removed, modified or remains unchanged. The amendments indicated should clearly illustrate that the proposed curriculum changes do not differ from the original programme design by more than 50% (Criteria 1 vi, 5 ii).

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| **Programme Details : BSc Honours Geography** | | | | | | |
| Title of all modules | Compulsory (C)/  Elective (E) | NQF level | Credits | No. of contact hours | Mode of delivery | Module status: Removed / Added / Modified / Unchanged |
| GEO 4001  Advanced GIS | C | 8 | 24 | 78 (6hrs x 13 weeks) | Contact | Unchanged |
| GEO 4002  Philosophy and Methodology | C | 8 | 16 | 52 (4hrs x 13 weeks) | Contact | Unchanged |
| GEO 4003  Advanced Research Methods | C | 8 | 16 | 52 (4hrs x 13 weeks) | Contact | Unchanged |
| GEO 4004  Research Paper/ Dissertation | C | 8 | 32 | 312( 12 hrs x 26 weeks) | Research and Contact | Unchanged |
| GE0 4006  Applied Environmental Science | E | 8 | 16 | 52 (4hrs per week for 13 weeks) | Contact | Unchanged |
| GEO 4008  Water Resources Management | E | 8 | 16 | 52 (4hrs x 13 weeks) | Contact | Modified from basic theory to applied |
|  |  |  | **TOTAL** | 598 |  |  |

**Question 1**

The institution needs to describe how the curriculum of this programme has been redesigned so that it aligns with the HEQSF, in relation to the programme title, intended purpose, exit level out comes and assessment criteria for this programme.

**RESPONSE:**

There is no drastic changes made in the curriculum of this programme as it caters students–

* To develop problem solving skills
* To develop technical skills
* To critically evaluate information regarding the human and physical environment

**Question 1**

The institution needs to describe how the curriculum of this programme has been redesigned so that it aligns with the HEQSF, in relation to the programme title, intended purpose, exit level out comes and assessment criteria for this programme.

**RESPONSE:**

There is no drastic changes made in the curriculum of this programme as it caters students–

* To develop problem solving skills
* To develop technical skills
* To critically evaluate information regarding the human and physical environment
* To acquire principles of geography and practical applications in relevant segments of human and physical environment

**Question 2**

The institution needs to discuss overall assessment strategies and procedures to align with teaching and learning outcomes.

**RESPONSE**

Assessments are done internally and externally.

* **Internal assessment**: Each module has assessment tools and each lecturers sets assessments based on it and the internal moderator moderates it before delivered to the Students.
* **External assessments**: Assessments like final examinations and mini dissertations are evaluated by Senate approved External moderators and Examiners.
* **Monitoring**: Each lecturer monitors the student progress and provide feedbacks to the department in order to improve students’ academic performance.
* **Validity and reliability of assessment practices**: The departmental board is in charge of all the assessments and examination papers.
* **Recording of assessment results**: all the results of all modules are captured using a central ITS.
* **Settling of student disputes**: students are given ample time to look at their results. Their problems are then addressed.

**Question 3**

The percentage of direct contact is high for a postgraduate programme compared to independent self-study.

**RESPONSE**

The justification to our high percentage of time allocated to contact time is because we offer five modules to full time students however we discussed it and tried to increase the time for independent self-study to 29%.

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| **Types of learning activities** | | **Hours** | **% Learning time** |
| Direct contact time (Lectures, face to face, limited interaction or technology-assisted, tutorials, Syndicate groups) | | 286 | 23.8% |
| WIL (Practical experiential learning, simulated learning, laboratory work , practicals etc excluding workplace-based learning) | | 26 | 2.2% |
| WIL (Workplace-based learning only) **\*** | | N/A | N/A |
| Independent self-study of standard texts and references and specially prepared materials (study guides, books, journal articles, case studies, multi-media) | | 351 | 29.25% |
| Assessment ( Examinations, Assignments, Projects, Presentations, Field trip reports, ) | | 186 | 15.5% |
| Other (specify) Consultation: | | 351 | 29.25% |
| **Total** | | 1200 | 100% |
|  | **If you selected "Other" as a type of learning activity please give a detailed explanation below: Consultation between supervisor and student regarding relevant literature, methods of data collection, analysis and presentation of results.** | | |

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