




UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE

Policy for Credit Accumulation and Transfer

 UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE	Policy for Credit Accumulation and Transfer [of credits between academic programmes] (CAT)	Council Approval Reference Number	C2022/04 (01 December 2022)
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Name of Policy	Policy for Credit Accumulation and Transfer [of credits between academic programmes] (CAT)
Description of Policy	This policy institutes a framework for the implementation of Credit Accumulation, and Transfer of credits between academic programmes (CAT)
Policy applies to	University-wide Specific (<i>outline location, campus, department unit, etc</i>)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff and students
Policy status	New policy

Approval authority	Council
Governing authority	Senate
Responsible officer	Registrar

Related legislation, policies, procedures, guidelines, standards and other protocols	<p>The Higher Education Act No 101 of 1997. Minimum Admission Requirements for Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's Degree Programmes. (Government Gazette No. 32131 of May 2008) National Policy for the Implementation of the Recognition of Prior Learning (SAQA, 2013) Policy for Credit Accumulation and Transfer within the National Qualifications Framework (SAQA, 2014) The revised Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (CHE, 2015); Recognition of Prior Learning, Credit Accumulation and Transfer, and Assessment in higher education Policy (CHE, 2016) UWC Admissions Policy</p>
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1. Preamble

This policy seeks to protect the integrity of qualifications. Its prescripts help prevent the possibility of having the same set of prior knowledge being used for obtaining more than one qualification. It also assists in ensuring that an applicant refreshes his or her prior knowledge with new, cutting-edge content, theories, and concepts in the chosen field of study, before obtaining a qualification. In addition, it is in line with the regulation that a person must obtain 50% of a qualification at the institution that is going to award the certificate for the qualification.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to provide guidelines for the recognition and transfer of credits between academic programme types. The purpose of CAT is to provide for mobility of students and enhance their chances to successfully complete their qualifications. CAT also provides for articulation across the sub- frameworks of the NQF to facilitate lifelong learning. This policy also provides a quality assurance framework for the recognition of prior informal and non-formal learning within RPL, as well as of formal learning within CAT. This policy regulation applies to undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications and does not apply to short learning programmes.

3. Context

The recognition of credits for the purposes of transfer from one qualification to another is determined by the nature of the qualifications, the relationship between them, the nature, complexity, and extent of the curricula associated with the specific credits to be recognised for transfer, and the nature of the assessment used.

4. Application

- 4.1 The recognition of credits for the purposes of transfer from one qualification to another is subject to the student having obtained a Bachelor's endorsement /matriculation endorsement prior to the successful completion of the modules.
- 4.2 Credits from a complete or incomplete qualification from other institutions as meeting part of the requirements for a targeted qualification subject to the comparability of that qualification's curricula, can be recognized. A maximum of 50% of the credits of a complete or incomplete qualification, excluding exit level modules, may be transferred to another qualification only once.
- 4.3 Credit transfer means carrying over credits previously obtained towards the same qualification in another institution; or to a different qualification on the same or different level of the NQF, in the same institution or another institution.
 - (i) Horizontal transfer refers to credits at the same level carried over from other institutions where the outcome/curriculum statements (subject content) are identical or comparable in content and assessment.
 - (ii) Vertical transfer is where credits of a preceding level of study at one institution are accepted for entry into the next level of study to the targeted programme.



4.4 Qualifications are compared to determine the degree of similarity between the purpose, outcomes and content, to ensure that students have the necessary knowledge and skills and guided by the NQF level descriptors.

4.5 The student may be required to do supplementary work before the transferred credits are awarded.

5. Recognition of prior learning

- (a) Based on recognition of prior learning the University may exempt an undergraduate or postgraduate student based on other forms of prior learning, which could include short learning programmes, from modules that contribute towards a particular qualification. Senate may prescribe certain challenge tests for the purpose of exemption.
- (b) If a student is granted exemption from one or more modules that lead to a particular qualification, that particular student will complete the qualification in question with a total number of credit points that are less than the normally required number of credits for the qualification. The academic record of that student will reflect 'exempted' against the modules or courses that she or he was exempted from.
- (c) Exemption from module(s) via RPL, can also be granted on the strength of short course(s) completed outside the HEQSF (in other words, non-credit-bearing courses completed by the applicant) on condition that the course contents, duration and assessment of the short course are at least equivalent to that of the module(s) of the targeted qualification.
- (d) An RPL student may be exempted from 50% of the credits of the targeted qualification excluding exit level modules.

6. Implementation Procedures

The policy is supported by a Procedure Protocol clearly explaining procedures that need to be followed to implement this policy and can be amended accordingly as circumstances change after consultation.

7. Revision made to this Policy

Date	Major, Minor or Editorial	Description

This procedure is scheduled for review every five years or more frequently, if appropriate.

8. Further Assistance

Director: Quality Assurance



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9. Acronyms

CAT	Credit and Accumulation Transfer
CESM	Classification of Education Subject Matter
CHE	Council on Higher Education
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
GFETQSF	General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework Higher Education Quality Committee
HEQF	Higher Education Qualifications Framework
HEQSF	Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
OQSF	Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework
QC	Quality Council
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning
SAQA	South African Qualifications Authority
WIL	Work Integrated Learning



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