



## basic education

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Basic Education  
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**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM SECTIONS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION SECTIONS  
UNIVERSITIES SOUTH AFRICA  
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
UMALUSI  
THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATIONS BOARD  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA  
NATIONAL TEACHERS ORGANISATIONS**

### **CIRCULAR S8 OF 2018: REVOCATION OF DESIGNATED LIST OF SUBJECTS FOR THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE.**

1. The policy for the *Minimum Admission Requirements for Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's Degree Programmes requiring a National Senior Certificate* was promulgated through *Notice No. 751 Government Gazette No. 31231 of 11 July 2008*, which came into effect on January 2009.
2. The policy categorises subjects listed in the National Curriculum Statement into two lists, namely a designated subject list and a non-designated subject list. The designated subjects are those subjects, if achieved at 50% and above, qualify a learner for admission to the Bachelor degree programme of study at a Higher Education Institution (HEI).
3. The Minister of Higher Education, on 2 March 2018, in Government Notice No. 165, in Government Gazette No. 41473, officially revoked the list of designated subjects. This implies that all 20-credit bearing subjects offered as part of the National Senior Certificate now have equal status.
4. The minimum admission requirement for a Bachelor degree programme, remains the same, namely, a National Senior Certificate (NSC) with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching of the higher education institution as certified by Umalusi, coupled with an achievement rating of 4 (Adequate Achievement, 50 – 59%) or better in any four 20-credit NSC subjects.

5. The only difference is that a learner can now offer any four 20 credit bearing subject in the National Senior Certificate examination, from the list of approved subjects stipulated in *paragraph 27* and Annexure C of the policy document, *National Policy Pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12*, Government Gazette No. 36042 of 28 December 2012.
6. The only subject that is not a 20 credit bearing subject is Life Orientation.
7. Adequate Achievement in at least four 20-credit NSC subjects provides the primary basis for admission to a Bachelor's Degree programme. An HEI is entitled to specify an appropriate level of subject achievement for a specific programme. For example, admission requirements for a Bachelor's Degree programme in Fine Art or Music might include a specified level of achievement in the corresponding recognised NSC subject. Similarly, an institution will be entitled to specify subject requirements for a programme. For example, Mathematics and Physical Sciences might be considered as requirements for admission to a Bachelor's Degree programme in Science.
8. The revocation of the designated list comes into effect from 1 October 2018, and will be applicable to candidates registered for the 2018 and subsequent NSC examinations. This will include both full-time and part-time candidates.
9. The revocation of the designated list will not be applied retrospectively to candidates who registered in previous years for the NSC. However, candidates who registered for the NSC examination in previous years and register to satisfy the NSC requirements or improve their NSC status must obtain a minimum of 30% in one of the subjects registered post 1 October 2018, to qualify for admission to the Bachelor degree programme, provided they satisfy all the other requirements for admission to the Bachelor degree programme.
10. Learners in Grade 9 in 2018, that will be selecting subjects for Grade 10 in 2019, must be made aware of this dispensation, as they will be eligible to select any of the 20 credit bearing subjects for admission to the Bachelor degree programme.
11. The revocation of the designated list does not affect the admission criteria for admission to the Diploma or Certificate programmes.
12. You are therefore urged to bring the contents of this Circular to the attention of the schools under your jurisdiction.



**MR HM MWELI**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE: 14/09/2018