

Qualifications Guidelines for SCS-based and SGC-based Courses under Qualifications Framework

Introduction

This document provides information on the conditions for courses to be labeled as Specification of Competency Standards (SCS)-based and Specification of Generic (Foundation) Competencies (SGC)-based (i.e. SCS-based and SGC-based courses).

Qualifications Guidelines (QG)

2. SCS-based courses are courses designed by providers using the SCS developed by the Industry Training Advisory Committees under the Qualifications Framework (QF). The learning content of these courses are primarily based on the SCS, while the learning outcomes match with the performance requirements and outcome standards as set out in the SCS.

3. SCS-based courses have the following characteristics:

- (a) the curriculum emphasizes the application and acquisition of knowledge and skills required in the workplace, as explicated in the SCS of the industry concerned;
- (b) the structure and sequence of the learning content as drawn from the SCS relate to the job skills of the industry;
- (c) the contexts of teaching as well as learning are either work-based or in work simulated environments; and
- (d) the assessment focuses on the competency achieved, thereby meeting the performance requirements and outcome standards of the concerned units of competency stipulated in the SCS.

4. SGC-based courses are courses designed by providers using the SGC, which covers four strands of foundation skills, namely English, Chinese, Numeracy and Information Technology. The learning content of these courses

are primarily based on the SGC, while the learning outcomes match with the performance requirements and outcome standards as set out in the SGC.

Guideline 1: Curriculum Design

5. The majority of the learning content (i.e. 60% of total QF credits or 72 QF credits, whichever is the lower) of SCS-based courses are drawn from the SCS. In this regard, the provider may use the SGC to meet the above percentage requirement, up to 10% of the total QF credits or 12 QF credits, whichever is the lower.

6. As for SGC-based courses, the majority of the learning content (i.e. 60% of total QF credits or 72 QF credits, whichever is the lower) are drawn from the SGC.

Guideline 2: Award Titles

7. Separately, the Education Bureau announced the implementation of the Award Titles Scheme (ATS) and Use of Credit under QF in October 2012. Effective from 1 January 2016, all courses at levels 1 to 7 (including SCS-based and SGC-based courses) should conform to the ATS before they can be registered in the Qualifications Register (QR). The ATS is shown in the diagram below:

Level	Award Titles Permitted for Each Level						
7	Doctor 博士						
6	Master 碩士	Postgraduate Diploma 深造文憑	Professional Diploma 專業文憑	Advanced Diploma 高等文憑	Diploma 文憑	Certificate 證書	
		Postgraduate Certificate 深造證書					
5	Bachelor 學士		Professional Certificate 專業證書	Advanced Certificate 高等證書			
4	Associate 副學士	Higher Diploma 高級文憑					
		Higher Certificate 高級證書					
3							
2							
1						Foundation Certificate 基礎證書	

Guideline 3: QF Credit

8. A Diploma course with or without qualifier must consist of 60 QF credits or more. A Certificate course with or without qualifier can be of any size. In addition, to qualify for an award at a pitched QF level, the majority of the learning content and outcomes (in terms of credit) of the course should be at the exit level. The aforementioned courses include SCS-based and SGC-based

courses.

9. Effective from 1 January 2016, all courses at levels 1 to 4 (including SCS-based and SGC-based courses) must show QF credit of the courses in QR. Providers will be advised of the arrangement in respect of courses at levels 5 to 7 in due course, but in the meantime, they may show QF credit values for these courses on a voluntary basis.

Accreditation Issues

10. In order to be qualified as SCS-based or SGC-based courses, they must comply with the above three conditions under QG, and have successfully gone through the normal accreditation procedures of the Accreditation Authority (except those courses offered by the self-accrediting institutions), which will cover the entry requirements, the curriculum content, the instructional methodologies, the assessment criteria, the exit standard and others.

Development Grant for SCS-based and SGC-based Courses

11. Providers may apply for development grant under the QF Fund if they develop and operate accredited SCS-based and SGC-based courses. For details, please visit the QF website (www.hkqf.gov.hk).

Education Bureau

August 2014