

Attachment b

AQF Levels Criteria and Qualification Type Descriptors (AQF Handbook Second Edition January 2013) -

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AQF levels summaries and learning outcomes criteria

Level	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Summary	Graduates at this level will have knowledge and skills for initial work, community involvement and/or further learning	Graduates at this level will have knowledge and skills for work in a defined context and/or further learning	Graduates at this level will have theoretical and practical knowledge and skills for work and/or further learning	Graduates at this level will have theoretical and practical knowledge and skills for specialised/ and/or skilled work and/or further learning	Graduates at this level will have specialised knowledge and skills for skilled/paraprofessional work and/or further learning
Knowledge	Graduates at this level will have foundational knowledge for everyday life, further learning and preparation for initial work	Graduates at this level will have basic factual, technical and procedural knowledge of a defined area of work and learning	Graduates at this level will have factual, technical, procedural and some theoretical knowledge of a specific area of work and learning	Graduates at this level will have broad factual, technical and some theoretical knowledge of a specific area or a broad field of work and learning	Graduates at this level will have technical and theoretical knowledge in a specific area or a broad field of work and learning
Skills	Graduates at this level will have foundational cognitive, technical and communication skills to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake defined routine activities • identify and report simple issues and problems 	Graduates at this level will have basic cognitive, technical and communication skills to apply appropriate methods, tools, materials and readily available information to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake defined activities • provide solutions to a limited range of predictable problems 	Graduates at this level will have a range of cognitive, technical and communication skills to select and apply a specialised range of methods, tools, materials and information to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete routine activities • provide and transmit solutions to predictable and sometimes unpredictable problems 	Graduates at this level will have a broad range of cognitive, technical and communication skills to select and apply a range of methods, tools, materials and information to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete routine and non-routine activities • provide and transmit solutions to a variety of predictable and sometimes unpredictable problems 	Graduates at this level will have a broad range of cognitive, technical and communication skills to select and apply methods and technologies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyse information to complete a range of activities • provide and transmit solutions to sometimes complex problems • transmit information and skills to others
Application of knowledge and skills	Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy in highly structured and stable contexts and within narrow parameters	Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy and limited judgement in structured and stable contexts and within narrow parameters	Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy and judgement and to take limited responsibility in known and stable contexts within established parameters	Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, judgement and limited responsibility in known or changing contexts and within established parameters	Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, judgement and defined responsibility in known or changing contexts and within broad but established parameters

AQF levels summaries and learning outcomes criteria

Level	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Level 9	Level 10
Summary	Graduates at this level will have broad knowledge and skills for paraprofessional/highly skilled work and/or further learning	Graduates at this level will have broad and coherent knowledge and skills for professional work and/or further learning	Graduates at this level will have advanced knowledge and skills for professional/highly skilled work and/or further learning	Graduates at this level will have specialised knowledge and skills for research, and/or professional practice and/or further learning	Graduates at this level will have systematic and critical understanding of a complex field of learning and specialised research skills for the advancement of learning and/or for professional practice
Knowledge	Graduates at this level will have broad theoretical and technical knowledge of a specific area or a broad field of work and learning	Graduates at this level will have broad and coherent theoretical and technical knowledge with depth in one or more disciplines or areas of practice	Graduates at this level will have advanced theoretical and technical knowledge in one or more disciplines or areas of practice	Graduates at this level will have advanced and integrated understanding of a complex body of knowledge in one or more disciplines or areas of practice	Graduates at this level will have systematic and critical understanding of a substantial and complex body of knowledge at the frontier of a discipline or area of professional practice
Skills	Graduates at this level will have a broad range of cognitive, technical and communication skills to select and apply methods and technologies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyse information to complete a range of activities interpret and transmit solutions to unpredictable and sometimes complex problems transmit information and skills to others 	Graduates at this level will have well-developed cognitive, technical and communication skills to select and apply methods and technologies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyse and evaluate information to complete a range of activities analyse, generate and transmit solutions to unpredictable and sometimes complex problems transmit knowledge, skills and ideas to others 	Graduates at this level will have advanced cognitive, technical and communication skills to select and apply methods and technologies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyse critically, evaluate and transform information to complete a range of activities analyse, generate and transmit solutions to complex problems transmit knowledge, skills and ideas to others 	Graduates at this level will have expert, specialised cognitive and technical skills in a body of knowledge or practice to independently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyse critically, reflect on and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories research and apply established theories to a body of knowledge or practice interpret and transmit knowledge, skills and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences 	Graduates at this level will have expert, specialised cognitive, technical and research skills in a discipline area to independently and systematically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage in critical reflection, synthesis and evaluation develop, adapt and implement research methodologies to extend and redefine existing knowledge or professional practice disseminate and promote new insights to peers and the community generate original knowledge and understanding to make a substantial contribution to a discipline or area of professional practice
Application of knowledge and skills	Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, judgement and defined responsibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in contexts that are subject to change within broad parameters to provide specialist advice and functions 	Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, well-developed judgement and responsibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in contexts that require self-directed work and learning within broad parameters to provide specialist advice and functions 	Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, well-developed judgement, adaptability and responsibility as a practitioner or learner	Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, expert judgement, adaptability and responsibility as a practitioner or learner	Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, authoritative judgement, adaptability and responsibility as an expert and leading practitioner or scholar

Qualification type	Senior Secondary Certificate of Education	Certificate I	Certificate II	Certificate III
Level		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Purpose	The Senior Secondary Certificate of Education qualifies individuals with knowledge, skills and values for diverse pathways to further learning, work and effective participation in civic life	The Certificate I qualifies individuals with basic functional knowledge and skills to undertake work, further learning and community involvement	The Certificate II qualifies individuals to undertake mainly routine work and as a pathway to further learning	The Certificate III qualifies individuals who apply a broad range of knowledge and skills in varied contexts to undertake skilled work and as a pathway for further learning
Knowledge	Graduates of a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education will have foundational knowledge across a range of learning areas and some specialist discipline or technical knowledge	Graduates of a Certificate I will have basic fundamental knowledge and understanding in a narrow area of work and learning	Graduates of a Certificate II will have basic factual, technical and procedural knowledge in a defined area of work and learning	Graduates of a Certificate III will have factual, technical, procedural and theoretical knowledge in an area of work and learning
Skills	Graduates of a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> literacy, numeracy and communication skills and use information communication technologies skills to present knowledge and ideas to others cognitive skills to access, record and act on information from varied sources appropriate to subject disciplines and to move across subject disciplines to develop new expertise cognitive, technical, communication and creative skills for particular disciplines and to integrate disciplines to solve problems, to underpin flexible and analytical thinking and to work with others 	Graduates of a Certificate I will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> basic skills to participate in everyday life and further learning cognitive and communication skills to receive, pass on and recall information in a narrow range of areas technical skills involving the use of tools appropriate to the activity and use of basic communication technologies 	Graduates of a Certificate II will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cognitive skills to access, record and act on a defined range of information from a range of sources cognitive and communication skills to apply and communicate known solutions to a limited range of predictable problems technical skills to use a limited range of equipment to complete tasks involving known routines and procedures with a limited range of options 	Graduates of a Certificate III will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cognitive, technical and communication skills to interpret and act on available information cognitive and communication skills to apply and communicate known solutions to a variety of predictable problems and to deal with unforeseen contingencies using known solutions technical and communication skills to provide technical information to a variety of specialist and non-specialist audiences technical skills to undertake routine and some non-routine tasks in a range of skilled operations
Application of knowledge and skills	Graduates of a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with depth in some areas to tasks or functions in known or changing contexts in particular contexts within civic life, work and lifelong learning as successful learners, confident individuals and team members and active and informed citizens in contexts that include taking individual responsibility with some direction and some accountability for the quality of outcomes 	Graduates of a Certificate I will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with some autonomy in defined contexts and within established parameters in contexts that may include preparation for further learning, life activities and/or a variety of initial routine and predictable work-related activities including participation in a team or work group 	Graduates of a Certificate II will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with some accountability for the quality of own outcomes and some responsibility for own outputs in work and learning with limited autonomy and judgement in the completion of own defined and routine tasks in known and stable contexts with limited autonomy and judgement to complete routine but variable tasks in collaboration with others in a team environment 	Graduates of a Certificate III will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with discretion and judgement in the selection of equipment, services or contingency measures to adapt and transfer skills and knowledge within known routines, methods, procedures and time constraints in contexts that include taking responsibility for own outputs in work and learning including participation in teams and taking limited responsibility for the output of others within established parameters
Volume of learning	The volume of learning of a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education is typically 2 years	The volume of learning of a Certificate I is typically 0.5 – 1 year	The volume of learning of a Certificate II is typically 0.5 – 1 year	The volume of learning of a Certificate III is typically 1 - 2 years. Up to 4 years may be required to achieve the learning outcomes through a program of indentured training/employment

Qualification type	Certificate IV	Diploma	Advanced Diploma	Associate Degree
Level	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 6
Purpose	The Certificate IV qualifies individuals who apply a broad range of specialised knowledge and skills in varied contexts to undertake skilled work and as a pathway for further learning	The Diploma qualifies individuals who apply integrated technical and theoretical concepts in a broad range of contexts to undertake advanced skilled or paraprofessional work and as a pathway for further learning	The Advanced Diploma qualifies individuals who apply specialised knowledge in a range of contexts to undertake advanced skilled or paraprofessional work and as a pathway for further learning	The Associate Degree qualifies individuals who apply underpinning technical and theoretical knowledge in a range of contexts to undertake paraprofessional work and as a pathway for further learning
Knowledge	Graduates of a Certificate IV will have broad factual, technical and theoretical knowledge in a specialised field of work and learning	Graduates of a Diploma will have technical and theoretical knowledge and concepts, with depth in some areas within a field of work and learning	Graduates of an Advanced Diploma will have specialised and integrated technical and theoretical knowledge with depth within one or more fields of work and learning	Graduates of an Associate Degree will have broad theoretical and technical knowledge with some depth in the underlying principles and concepts in one or more disciplines
Skills	Graduates of a Certificate IV will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cognitive skills to identify, analyse, compare and act on information from a range of sources cognitive, technical and communication skills to apply and communicate technical solutions of a non-routine or contingency nature to a defined range of predictable and unpredictable problems specialist technical skills to complete routine and non-routine tasks and functions communication skills to guide activities and provide technical advice in the area of work and learning 	Graduates of a Diploma will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cognitive and communication skills to identify, analyse, synthesise and act on information from a range of sources cognitive, technical and communication skills to analyse, plan, design and evaluate approaches to unpredictable problems and/or management requirements specialist technical and creative skills to express ideas and perspectives communication skills to transfer knowledge and specialised skills to others and demonstrate understanding of knowledge 	Graduates of an Advanced Diploma will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cognitive and communication skills to identify, analyse, synthesise and act on information from a range of sources cognitive and communication skills to transfer knowledge and skills to others and to demonstrate understanding of specialised knowledge with depth in some areas cognitive and communication skills to formulate responses to complex problems wide-ranging specialised technical, creative or conceptual skills to express ideas and perspectives 	Graduates of an Associate Degree will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cognitive skills to identify, analyse and evaluate information and concepts from a range of sources cognitive, technical and creative thinking skills to demonstrate a broad understanding of knowledge and ideas with some depth in a discipline cognitive, communication and analytical skills to interpret and transmit responses to sometimes complex problems communication skills to make a clear and coherent presentation of knowledge and ideas with some intellectual independence
Application of knowledge and skills	Graduates of a Certificate IV will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to specialised tasks or functions in known or changing contexts with responsibility for own functions and outputs, and may have limited responsibility for organisation of others with limited responsibility for the quantity and quality of the output of others in a team within limited parameters 	Graduates of a Diploma will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with depth in some areas of specialisation, in known or changing contexts to transfer and apply theoretical concepts and/or technical and/or creative skills in a range of situations with personal responsibility and autonomy in performing complex technical operations with responsibility for own outputs in relation to broad parameters for quantity and quality with initiative and judgement to organise the work of self and others and plan, coordinate and evaluate the work of teams within broad but generally well-defined parameters 	Graduates of an Advanced Diploma will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with depth in areas of specialisation, in contexts subject to change with initiative and judgment in planning, design, technical or management functions with some direction to adapt a range of fundamental principles and complex techniques to known and unknown situations across a broad range of technical or management functions with accountability for personal outputs and personal and team outcomes within broad parameters 	Graduates of an Associate Degree will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with initiative and judgement in planning, problem solving and decision making in paraprofessional practice to adapt knowledge and skills in a range of contexts and/or for further studies in one or more disciplines to adapt fundamental principles, concepts and techniques to known and unknown situations with responsibility and accountability for own learning and work and in collaboration with others within broad parameters
Volume of learning	The volume of learning of a Certificate IV is typically 0.5 – 2 years. There may be variations between short duration specialist qualifications that build on knowledge and skills already acquired and longer duration qualifications that are designed as entry level requirements for work	The volume of learning of a Diploma is typically 1 – 2 years	The volume of learning of an Advanced Diploma is typically 1.5 – 2 years	The volume of learning of an Associate Degree is typically 2 years

AQF qualification type learning outcomes descriptors

Qualification type	Bachelor Degree	Bachelor Honours Degree	Graduate Certificate	Graduate Diploma
Level	Level 7	Level 8	Level 8	Level 8
Purpose	The Bachelor Degree qualifies individuals who apply a broad and coherent body of knowledge in a range of contexts to undertake professional work and as a pathway for further learning	The Bachelor Honours Degree qualifies individuals who apply a body of knowledge in a specific context to undertake professional work and as a pathway for research and further learning	The Graduate Certificate qualifies individuals who apply a body of knowledge in a range of contexts to undertake professional/highly skilled work and as a pathway for further learning	The Graduate Diploma qualifies individuals who apply a body of knowledge in a range of contexts to undertake professional/highly skilled work and as a pathway for further learning
Knowledge	Graduates of a Bachelor Degree will have a broad and coherent body of knowledge, with depth in the underlying principles and concepts in one or more disciplines as a basis for independent lifelong learning	Graduates of a Bachelor Honours Degree will have coherent and advanced knowledge of the underlying principles and concepts in one or more disciplines and knowledge of research principles and methods	Graduates of a Graduate Certificate will have specialised knowledge within a systematic and coherent body of knowledge that may include the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills in a new or existing discipline or professional area	Graduates of a Graduate Diploma will have advanced knowledge within a systematic and coherent body of knowledge that may include the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills in a new or existing discipline or professional area
Skills	Graduates of a Bachelor Degree will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cognitive skills to review critically, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge cognitive and technical skills to demonstrate a broad understanding of knowledge with depth in some areas cognitive and creative skills to exercise critical thinking and judgement in identifying and solving problems with intellectual independence communication skills to present a clear, coherent and independent exposition of knowledge and ideas 	Graduates of a Bachelor Honours Degree will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cognitive skills to review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge to identify and provide solutions to complex problems with intellectual independence cognitive and technical skills to demonstrate a broad understanding of a body of knowledge and theoretical concepts with advanced understanding in some areas cognitive skills to exercise critical thinking and judgement in developing new understanding technical skills to design and use research in a project communication skills to present a clear and coherent exposition of knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences 	Graduates of a Graduate Certificate will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cognitive skills to review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge and identify and provide solutions to complex problems cognitive skills to think critically and to generate and evaluate complex ideas specialised technical and creative skills in a field of highly skilled and/or professional practice communication skills to demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts communication skills to transfer complex knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences 	Graduates of a Graduate Diploma will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cognitive skills to review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge and identify and provide solutions to complex problems cognitive skills to think critically and to generate and evaluate complex ideas specialised technical and creative skills in a field of highly skilled and/or professional practice communication skills to demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts communication skills to transfer complex knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences
Application of knowledge and skills	Graduates of a Bachelor Degree will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with initiative and judgement in planning, problem solving and decision making in professional practice and/or scholarship to adapt knowledge and skills in diverse contexts with responsibility and accountability for own learning and professional practice and in collaboration with others within broad parameters 	Graduates of a Bachelor Honours Degree will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with initiative and judgement in professional practice and/or scholarship to adapt knowledge and skills in diverse contexts with responsibility and accountability for own learning and practice and in collaboration with others within broad parameters to plan and execute project work and/or a piece of research and scholarship with some independence 	Graduates of a Graduate Certificate will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to make high level, independent judgements in a range of technical or management functions in varied specialised contexts to initiate, plan, implement and evaluate broad functions within varied specialised technical and/or creative contexts with responsibility and accountability for personal outputs and all aspects of the work or function of others within broad parameters 	Graduates of a Graduate Diploma will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to make high level, independent judgements in a range of technical or management functions in varied specialised contexts to initiate, plan, implement and evaluate broad functions within varied specialised technical and/or creative contexts with responsibility and accountability for personal outputs and all aspects of the work or function of others within broad parameters
Volume of learning	The volume of learning of a Bachelor Degree is typically 3 – 4 years	The volume of learning of a Bachelor Honours Degree is typically 1 year following a Bachelor Degree. A Bachelor Honours Degree may also be embedded in a Bachelor Degree, typically as an additional year	The volume of learning of a Graduate Certificate is typically 0.5 – 1 year	The volume of learning of a Graduate Diploma is typically 1 – 2 years