

**CIRCULAR NO 002/2008**

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**TO: PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS ENTERING CANDIDATES FOR THE 2008  
NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE**

**Minimum Undergraduate Admission Requirements on the basis of the NSC**

The IEB has received further information from Higher Education South Africa (HESA) about HE admission policy details on the basis of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) to be written for the first time in 2008.

HE admission policy requirements are as follows:

Seven subjects must be offered for the NSC from Grades 10 to 12 as follows:

Fundamentals: Group A subjects

- One official language at Home Language level
- Another official language on at least First Additional Language level
- Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy
- Life Orientation

Electives: Group B subjects

- A minimum of three subjects

To qualify for a the NSC the learner must –

“... achieve 40% in three subjects, one of which is an official language at Home Language level, and 30% in three subjects, provided that a complete portfolio of evidence in the school-based assessment component is submitted in the subject failed”.

As from January 2009, the minimum HE admission requirements on the basis of the NSC will not be according to the current two institutional types, i.e. universities and technikons but will be according to the three levels of undergraduate programmes, i.e. higher certificate, diploma and bachelor's degree. These were gazetted in August 2005 *Government Gazette*.

Since a 30%+ pass (rating 2) in HE language of instruction cannot be assumed from the NSC requirements, the national Department of Education (DoE) assured HESA that the HE admission requirements policy will be amended to additionally require a 30%+ pass where that language is not the HE language of instruction.

Over and above the minimum HE admission requirements, Section 37 of the Higher Education Act, 1997 and the aforementioned policy also provide for HE institutions to determine additional admission requirements.

More detailed information can also be downloaded in the latest guide to Grade 10 to 12 learners *Into Higher Education* which can be downloaded from the HESA publications link on <http://www.hesa.org.za/hesa/>.

Within that context HESA coordinated a process where a generic public HE sector rationale was developed for what is called the academic points score (APS) which mostly relates to the 7 point rating scale for NSC subjects. Attached please find an example from the University of Cape Town, being a public press release, which also contextualizes most of the underlying principles.

Please note that since institutional applications of the APS are not exactly the same, these should rather be verified with universities concerned, all 23 of which can be contacted via their web links at <http://www.hesa.org.za/nishe/contentpage.asp?id=227>

Apart from public HE institutions, all private higher education institutions (PHEIs) will also be subjected to these programme admission requirements. The latest register of PHEIs can be accessed at <http://www.education.gov.za/dynamic/dynamic.aspx?pageid=326&dirid=47>

The IEB advises schools to encourage learners to participate in the HE benchmarking tests.

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