



**National
Council for
Higher Education**
Ensuring Quality for Excellence

Career Guidance Seminar for Secondary School Teachers

Presented by:

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About the National Council for Higher Education

- The National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) Uganda was established by the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act(UOTIA) Cap.262, Laws of Uganda, 2024 to regulate and oversee the higher education sub-sector in Uganda.
- Higher Education means Post Advanced level or its equivalent.
- NCHE largely regulates education leading to the award of Diplomas, Bachelors, PGD, Masters and PhD.
- NCHE also regulates some certificates such as Higher Education Certificate and Theological Certificates.

Functions of NCHE

1. Granting permission to Higher Education Institutions to operate.

- The HEIs are of three (3) categories:
 - i. Universities (Public and Private)
 - ii. Other Degree-Awarding Institutions (Public and Private)
 - iii. Tertiary Institutions (Public and Private).

Note:

NCHE does **not recognize** qualifications awarded by institutions not **recognized**.

Functions of NCHE, cont'd

You should, therefore, advise your students not enroll in institutions in and outside Uganda that are not recognized by NCHE.

If they do so, NCHE will not recognise their qualifications. They will have wasted their time and money.

Available Higher Education Institutions

- ✓ Public Universities-10 (2 new ones coming)
- ✓ Private Universities-47
- ✓ Public Other Degree Awarding Institutions-2
- ✓ Private Other Degree Awarding Institutions-24
- ✓ Public Tertiary institutions-43
- ✓ Private Tertiary Institutions-131

Note that we also have a number of institutions under the Ministry of Education and Sports offering National Diplomas and Certificates of the following examination boards.

- ✓ Uganda Nurses and Midwives Examinations Board(UNMEB)
- ✓ Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board(UBTEB)
- ✓ Uganda Allied Health Examinations Board(UAHEB)

Functions of NCHE, Cont'd

2) Grants permission to recognized institutions to operate campuses/branches in any part of Uganda.

Again, NCHE does **not recognize** qualifications from campuses/branches of institutions that were not approved, hence wastage of time and money.

Functions, cont'd

3. Grants permission to allow two institutions to affiliate.

Further still, NCHE does **not recognize** qualifications arising from unapproved affiliations.

Functions, Cont'd

4. Grants permission to HEIs to teach courses of study/programmes.

In addition to an institution being recognised by NCHE, the courses of study/programmes must be **accredited or approved** by NCHE.

Functions of NCHE, Cont'd

NCHE does **not recognize** qualifications arising from unaccredited (unapproved) programmes.

You should advise students on the status of a programme before enrolling, to avoid wasting time and money.

Functions of NCHE, Cont'd

5. Equates foreign higher education qualifications with those awarded by Ugandan HEIs.

The National Council is required to “determine the equivalence of all types of academic and professional qualifications of degrees, diplomas and certificates obtained elsewhere with those awarded by Uganda institutions of Higher Education for recognition in Uganda”

Functions of NCHE, Cont'd

5. Equates foreign higher education Institutions with those in Uganda.

The National Council is required to set standards for equating institutions outside Uganda to those in Uganda

Functions of NCHE, Cont'd

In equating qualifications, NCHE among other things verifies the accreditation status of the awarding institution and the programme, with a relevant sister agency in the respective country.

Key Considerations

Those who intend to study from abroad, should verify the status of the Institution and the programme with the relevant higher education agency/ministry responsible for higher Education in the respective country.

Key Considerations, Cont.

- ✓ When a foreign qualification is classified in Uganda, the class may change considerably.
- ✓ A degree obtained from abroad may not mean the same in Uganda.
- ✓ For example, clinical medicine in china is not the same as MBChB in Uganda.
- ✓ A three year bachelor of architecture from US is not the same as Bachelor of Architecture in Uganda
- ✓ Professional degrees may have other requirements.

Functions of NCHE, Cont'd

6. NCHE Sets Minimum Admission Requirements to degrees, diplomas and certificate programmes

Admission Requirements To Bachelors Degrees Programmes

Entry Scheme	Existing Standards
Direct Entry	UACE with at least 2P obtained at the same sitting or its equivalent and UCE with at least five passes.
Mature Age	Mature Age Examinations Certificate awarded to a person aged at least 25 years and above and has passed the mature age entry examinations with a 50% marks. The mature age entry examinations must have been accredited by NCHE
Diploma Scheme	Diploma at credit/distinction level in the relevant field from a recognized institution
HEC Scheme	A Higher Education Certificate with at least a credit

Admission Requirements To Diploma Programmes

Entry Scheme	Existing Standards
Direct Entry	UACE with at least IP and 2S obtained at the same sitting or its equivalent and UCE with at least five passes.
Mature Age	Mature Age Examinations Certificate awarded to a person aged at least 25 years and above and has passed the mature age entry examinations with a 50% marks. The mature age entry examinations must have been accredited by NCHE
Certificate Scheme	A recognized Certificate in a relevant field
HEC Scheme	A Higher Education Certificate

Minimum admission requirements, Cont'd

Note:

- If you do not have 5 passes at 'O' level, you do not qualify for a degree programme, even if you have triple As.
- A Principal Pass is A, B, C, D & E.
Subsidiary is O.

Minimum admission requirements, Cont'd

Mature Age Entry

A candidate must be 25 years old and scored at least 50 % and above from a recognized Mature age centre which include:

- i. Makerere University**
- ii. Gulu University**
- iii. Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)**
- iv. Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU)**
- v. Bugema University**

Minimum admission requirements, Cont'd

Note:

When you enroll into a programme without meeting the minimum admission requirements, the resulting qualification will not be recognized by NCHE, hence you will have wasted your time and money.

Minimum admission requirements, Cont'd

Some programmes have specific admission requirements, for example:

- Engineering programmes require: Math and Physics.
- Health related programmes, such as Medicine, Nursing generally require: Biology and Chemistry.

Weighting System

- ✓ Public universities use a weighting system.
- ✓ All subjects taken at the UACE are grouped into four categories and weighted for purposes of admission to any programme of Undergraduate study in a public University.

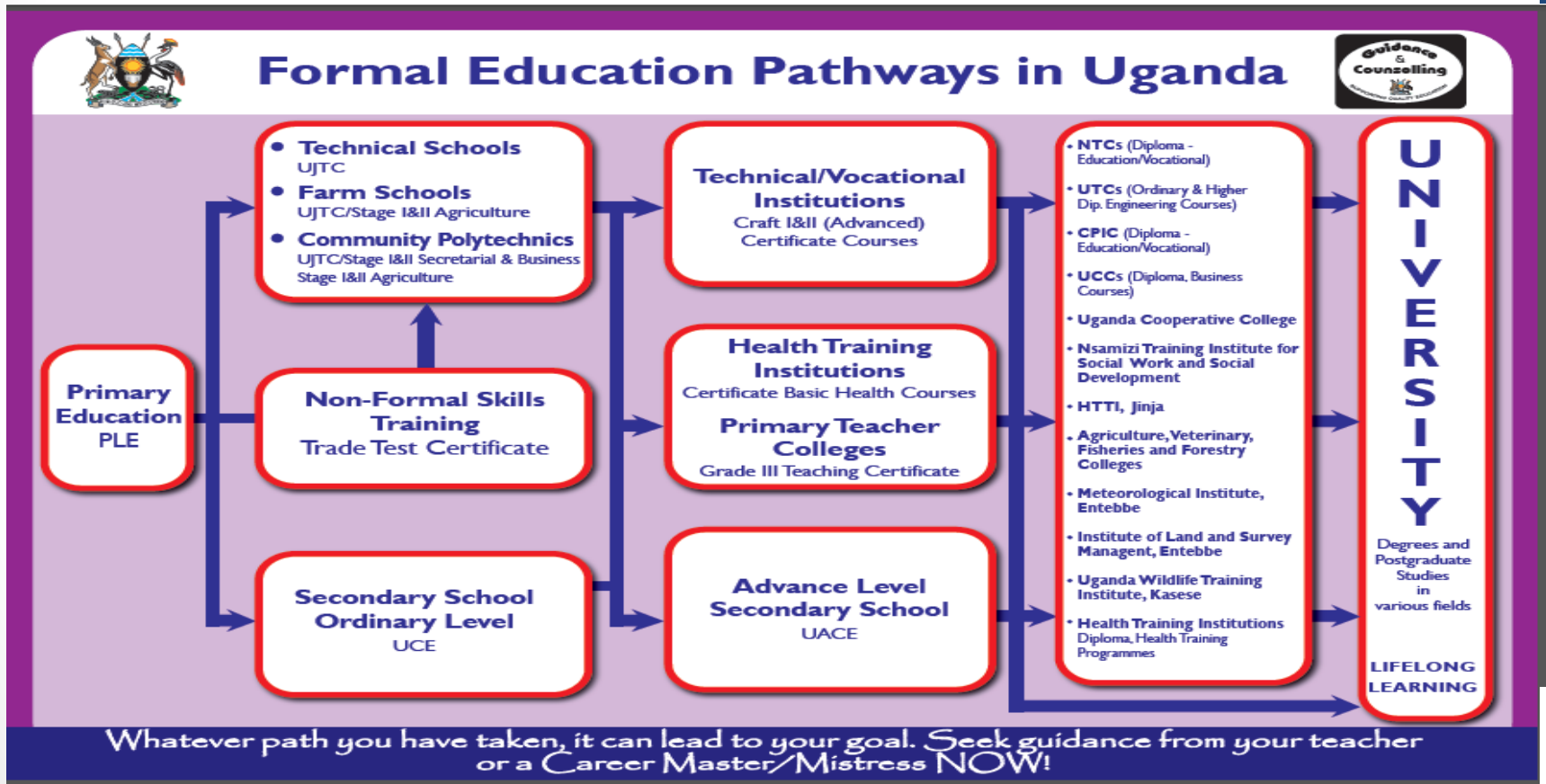
Category	Weight
Essential	3
Relevant	2
Desirable	1
Others	0.5

- ✓ Note: The Essential A' Level subjects for University Programmes must be passed with at least a Principal Pass.
- ✓ Not more than two subjects shall be designated as “Essential”.
- ✓ The essential subjects largely constitute the minimum set by NCHE.

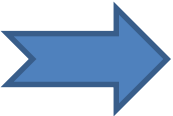
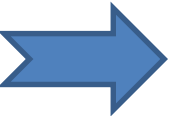
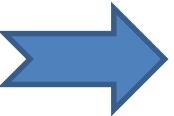
Equating of Foreign Secondary School Qualifications for Admission in Uganda

- ✓ Such qualifications should have been awarded by **accredited examining Boards, Councils or Institutions** mandated by law to conduct such examinations and award certificates
- ✓ The foreign secondary school certificate must be equated by UNEB
- ✓ Only those subjects that are offered at Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education level will be equated or considered
- ✓ The applicant should have studied and obtained an Ordinary Level Certificate of Education or its equivalent.
- ✓ The candidate must have done at least two subjects corresponding with those offered at UACE.

Education Pathways in Uganda



Multiple Pathways

- ✓ Encourage your students to embrace alternative pathways to their desired dreams
- ✓ Eg, UCE  Craft.  Dip.  Degree
- ✓ Professional Qualifications may be considered (in the profession) more valued than academic qualifications and are considered equivalent to academic qualifications. Eg, CPA(U), ACCA and all accountancy qualifications are equivalent to a postgraduate diploma.

Other Important Aspects

- ✓ Any qualification combined with a vocational skill may open for a variety of opportunities.
- ✓ Generic courses provide for a wide range of opportunities and opposed to early specialisation.
- ✓ Institutions and courses that provide the 21st century skills are considered to prepare graduates for the job market.
- ✓ Some fields like Human Resource Management are better joined at a postgraduate level than at a undergraduate level.

Abnormal Drop Out Rates a Big Challenge to Education System

Candidate who sat for

Year	Candidate Who Sat for				
	UACE	Nursing Certificates	UBTEB Certificates	UCE	PLE
2023	110,553 (registered)			364,469	736,993
2022	96,557	12,894		345,695	811,810
2021		10,946			
2020	97,440	7,932		330,592	736,942
2019	103,429	8,356		333,060	683,302
2018	98,524	9,952		320,119	659,633
2017	100,066	8,836		316,624	631,282
2016		7,337		306,507	623,540

Key Challenge

- ✓ In addition to the top grades, what else can your school add on to better prepare students for higher education & Survival?



THANK YOU