



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

# **Standards for Higher Education Access Programmes (HEAP)**

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**August, 2024**



# Presentation Agenda

- Background
- Mandate
- Situation Analysis
- Standards for Higher Education Certificate(HEC)
- Adoption and Lessons Learnt

# Background

- The National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) Uganda was established by the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act(UOTIA ) of 2001 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.

# Mandate

## **NCHE is mandated to among other things:**

a) By regulations set institutional standards governing the performance, operations and general conduct of Universities and Tertiary Institutions.

- *Admission Requirements (SI 63/2007)*
- *Physical Infrastructure and Curriculum (SI 85/2005)*
- *Grading and Classification of Degree and Diplomas (SI 21/2015),*
- *Naming and Renaming of HEIS (SI 01/2007)*
- *Honorary Degrees (SI 50/2010)*
- *Checklist of Quality and Universities Capacity Indicators for Assessment of Universities and Programmes (SI 80B/2005)*

b) Certify that an institution of Higher Education has adequate and accessible physical structures and staff for the courses to be offered by it.

c) Ensure minimum standards for courses of study and the equating of degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded by the different public and private institutions of Higher Education.

d) Accredite both academic and professional programmes of Higher Education Institution before commencement of training.

# Situational Analysis

- In 2011, there were 1.83M children in P.1
- In 2017, there were 0.623M in P.7
- S.4 Enrolment has been in the range of 250K-320K in 2013-2017
- S.6 Enrolment has been in the range of 65,000-100,000 in 2013-2017
- Uganda's doctor-patient and nurse-patient ratio is approximately 1:25000 and 1:11000 (WHO recommendation is 1:1000)
- Gross Enrolment Ratio for Higher Education is estimated at 6.8% below the sub-Saharan Africa average of 9.4%
- In 2019/20, 38.1% of students were enrolled in STEM and this increased from 36.7% in 2017/18.

# Situation Analysis Ctnd

**Based on the Available Statistics from Uganda National Examinations Board(UNEB)**

| Pass Level | 2020         |       |                   |        | 2019         |       |                   |        |
|------------|--------------|-------|-------------------|--------|--------------|-------|-------------------|--------|
|            | No. of Cands | % age | Cumm no. of Cands | Cumm % | No. of Cands | % age | Cumm no. of Cands | Cumm % |
| 3P         | 41,411       | 42.5  | 41,411            | 42.5   | 38,737       | 37.5  | 38,737            | 37.5   |
| 2P         | 26,602       | 27.3  | 68,013            | 69.8   | 26,986       | 26.1  | 65,723            | 63.6   |
| 1P         | 19,015       | 19.5  | 87,028            | 89.3   | 23,327       | 22.6  | 89,050            | 86.2   |
| 1S         | 9,616        | 9.9   | 96,622            | 99.2   | 12,818       | 12.4  | 101,868           | 98.6   |
| F          | 796          | 0.8   | 97,418            | 100    | 1,433        | 1.4   | 103,301           | 100    |

# The Higher Education Certificate-HEC (2016)

- HEC is a Level 4 qualification on the UHEQF
- HEC started in 2016 after approval of the UHEQF
- It is a University Foundation Programme
- HEC was conceptualized as a way of harmonizing and resolving issues with bridging/Access programmes
- It is intended for four categories of students.
- Foreign Students whose education system differs from that of Uganda/commonwealth.
- And it is remedial programme for those with A-level **BUT NOT** admissible for bachelors and diploma programmes. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> route into Higher Education.
- Holders of vocational qualifications
- Bridging Science/Arts Divide

# The HEC

- **Linkage between Vocational Education and Higher Education.**
  - ✓ Holders of vocational qualifications do HEC and they progress to desired Diplomas and Degree programmes.
  - ✓ Take note that previously, UCE holders would join
    - ✓ a diploma in clinical medicine (for three years) and then join degrees
    - ✓ Registered nursing certificate which was considered equivalent to a Diploma



# Revised HEC -2022

- NCHE and FAWE carried out a monitoring exercise on institutions that are offering the HEC.
- Some of these recommendation informed the review process
  - Increase on subject content for biological and physical science orientations.
  - Emphasize 'access' in the name

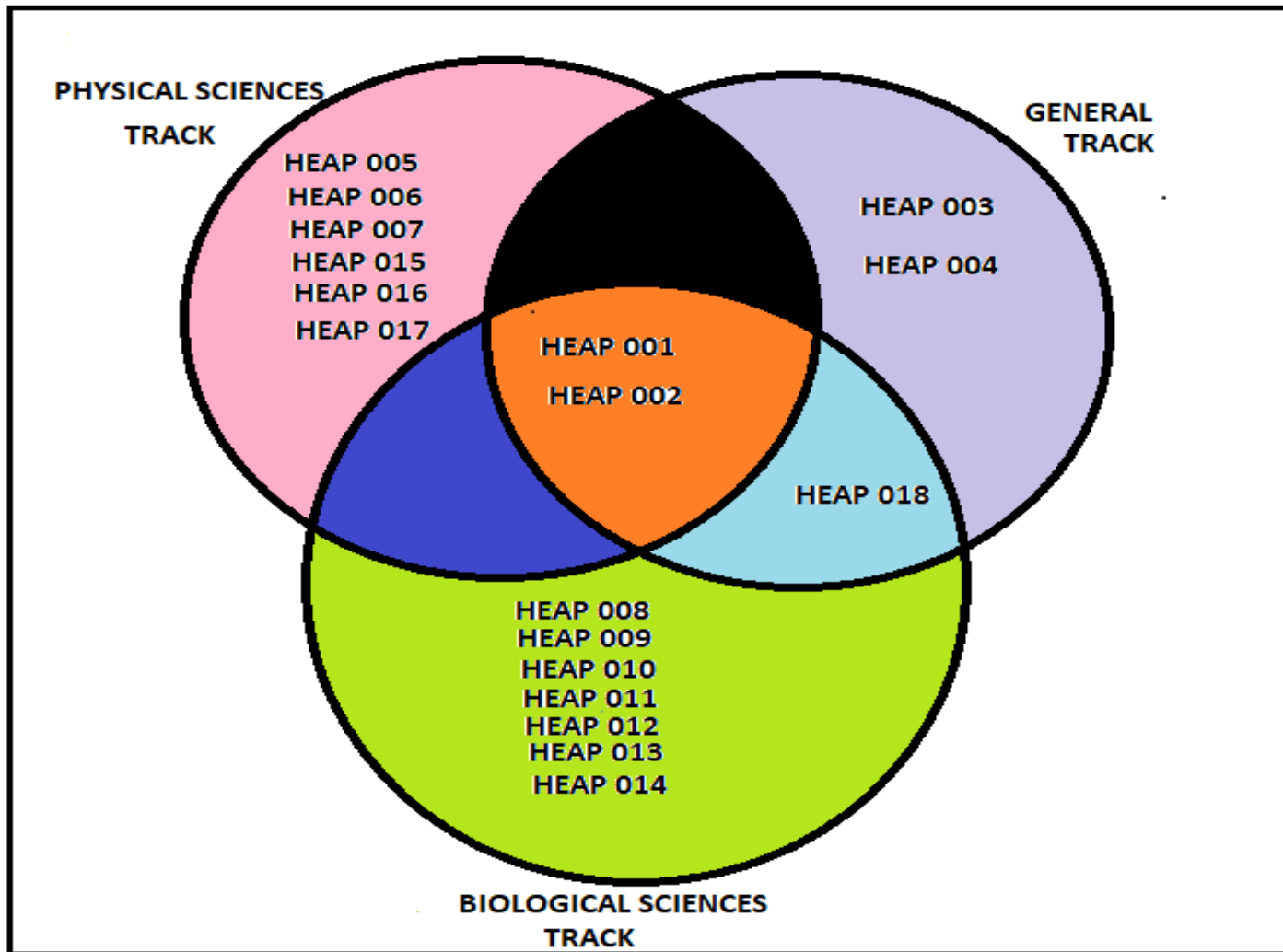
# Revised HEC

- The name is Higher Education Access Certificate Programme (HEACP)
- Three tracks are proposed
  - ✓ Higher Education Access Certificate Programme -General
  - ✓ Higher Education Access Certificate Programme-Biological
  - ✓ Higher Education Access Certificate Programme-Physical
- The tracks share common courses and have different admission requirements and different pathways.

# Required Courses

- **HEAP 001: Life Skills Education**
- **HEAP 002: Study Skills and Academic writing**
- HEAP 003: Entrepreneurship Skills
- HEAP 004: Personal Financial Management
- HEAP 005: Foundational Physics I (Mechanics and Thermal Physics)
- HEAP 006: Foundational Physics II (Electricity and Magnetism; Waves)
- HEAP 007: Foundational Physics III (Nuclear and Optical Physics)
- HEAP 008: Foundational Inorganic chemistry
- HEAP 009: Foundational Physical chemistry
- HEAP 010: Foundational Organic chemistry
- HEAP 011: Foundational Chemistry for Physical Sciences
- HEAP 012: Cell and Molecular Biology
- HEAP 013: Genetics and Evolution
- HEAP 014: Plant and Animal Physiology
- HEAP 015: Foundational Mathematics I (Algebra and Differential Calculus)
- HEAP 016: Foundational Mathematics II (Vector Algebra and Integral Calculus)
- HEAP 017: Foundational Statistics
- **HEAP 018: Foundations of Mathematics and Statistics**

# Revised HEC



HEAP 001: Life Skills Education

HEAP 002: Study Skills and Academic writing

# Physical Sciences Track

## Admission Requirements

1. Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education or its equivalent with a Subsidiary Pass in **Mathematics** and another subsidiary pass in either **Physics or Chemistry**.
2. For A-Level Students **without** Mathematics, Physics and/or Chemistry; At least two principal passes at UACE are required and UCE with a **credit in Mathematics, physics and Chemistry**.
3. Technical/Vocational Qualifications in physical sciences such as National Craft Certificate, that are considered equivalent to the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (A-level).
4. Students whose foreign secondary school qualifications are not considered equivalent to the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (A-level) but admissible into Higher Education in their respective countries. Such students shall be required to have an equivalent of Uganda Certificate of Education with at least a credit in mathematics and another credit in Physics and/or Chemistry. Foreign students whose studies were not conducted in English shall show proof of proficiency in the English Language.

# Physical Sciences Track

**Course Content:** HEAP 1& HEAP 2 and Three Courses in Mathematics & Three Courses in Physics

| Semester | Required Courses  |
|----------|---|
| I        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Study Skills and Academic Writing</li><li>ii. Foundational Mathematics I (Algebra and Differential Calculus)</li><li>iii. Foundational Chemistry</li><li>iv. Foundational Physics I (Mechanics and Thermal Physics)</li></ol>  |
| II       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Life Skills Education</li><li>ii. Foundational Mathematics II (Vector Algebra and Integral Calculus)</li><li>iii. Foundational Statistics</li><li>iv. Foundational Physics II (Electricity and Magnetism; Waves)</li><li>v. Foundational Physics III (Nuclear and Optical Physics)</li></ol> |

# Biological Sciences Track

## Admission Requirements

1. Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education or its equivalent with a Subsidiary Passes in both Biology and Chemistry.
2. For A-Level Students without Biology and/or Chemistry; At least two principal passes at UACE are required and UCE with credits in each of the following subject; Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics.
3. Technical/Vocational Qualifications in Biological Sciences or Health-related disciplines such as Nursing/Midwifery, Environmental Health Sciences and Laboratory Techniques; that are considered equivalent to the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (A-level).
4. Students whose foreign secondary school qualifications are not considered equivalent to the Ugandan A-level (Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education) but permit admission into Higher Education in their respective countries. Such students shall be required to have an equivalent of Uganda Certificate of Education with at least a credit in each of the following three subjects: Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry. Foreign students whose studies were not conducted in English shall show proof of proficiency in the English Language.

# Biological Sciences Track

**Course Content:** HEAP 1& HEAP 2 and Three Courses in Chemistry  
& Three Courses in Biology

| Semester | Required Courses  |
|----------|---|
| I        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. <b>Study Skills and Academic Writing (HEAP 1)</b></li><li>ii. Foundations of Mathematics &amp; Statistics</li><li>iii. Foundational Physical chemistry</li><li>iv. Foundational Inorganic chemistry</li><li>v. Cell and Molecular Biology</li><li>vi. Genetics and Evolution</li></ol> |
| II       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Life Skills Education (HEAP 2)</li><li>ii. Foundational Organic chemistry</li><li>iii. Plant and Animal Physiology</li></ol>   |



# General Track-Humanities and/or Social Scs

## Admission Requirements

1. Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education with at least two subsidiary passes or its equivalent. At least one of the subsidiary pass shall be from a principal subject. For avoidance of doubt, a holder of UACE with only one principal pass shall be deemed to meet the admission requirements.
2. Vocational Qualifications at level 2 or level 3 of the Uganda Vocational Qualifications Framework.
3. Qualifications equivalent to Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) as shall be determined by the National Council in consultation with the Uganda National Examinations Board
4. Any post O-level certificate of at least two years duration recognized by NCHE.
5. Students whose foreign secondary school qualifications are not considered equivalent to UACE but admissible into Higher Education in the foreign country. Such students shall have passed at least five subjects with at least a pass in each of the five subjects. In addition, foreign students whose studies were not conducted in English shall show proof of proficiency in the English Language. The English proficiency centers shall be accredited by NCHE.

# General Track

## Course Content

| Semester | Required Courses  |
|----------|---|
| I        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Study Skills and Academic Writing</li><li>ii. Entrepreneurship Skills</li><li>iii. Foundational of Mathematics</li></ul> |
| II       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Life Skills Education</li><li>ii. Personal Financial Management</li></ul>  |

# Duration, Grading and Graduation Load

- The HAEP shall run for a period of one year (2 semesters)
- Graduation load: 36-44 Credit Units

| Raw Marks | Alpha Grade | Grade Point | Logic Behind the Grade  |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|---|
| 80-100    | A           | 5.0         | Excellent performance indicating mastery of all course-learning outcomes.                                 |
| 75-79     | B+          | 4.5         | Very good performance indicating mastery of a substantial portion of course learning outcomes.            |
| 70-74     | B           | 4.0         | Good performance with some errors/omissions   |
| 65-69     | C+          | 3.5         | Above average performance with a number of noticeable errors.   |
| 60-65     | C           | 3.0         |   |
| 55-59     | D+          | 2.5         | Satisfactory performance.   |
| 50-54     | D-          | 2.0         |   |
| 0-49      | F           | 0.0         | Fail. There is no evidence of mastery of the learning outcome and the candidate should repeat the course. |

# Classification of the Awards and Progression

| Class                 | CGPA      |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Class I (Distinction) | 4.40-5.00 |
| Class II (Credit)     | 2.80-4.39 |
| Class III (Pass)      | 2.00-2.79 |

- i. Diploma programmes: A person shall have passed a Higher Education Access Programme with at least a class III (pass).
- ii. Bachelors degree programme: A person shall have passed a Higher Education Access Programme with at least a class II (credit).

# HAEP Certificate in the Uganda Higher Education Qualifications Framework

| Levels  | Education levels    | Typical Qualifications at Each Level                             |
|---------|---------------------|--|
| Level 1 | Primary Education   | Primary Leaving Certificate                                      |
| Level 2 | Secondary Education | Uganda Certificate of Education(UCE or simply O-level).          |
| Level 3 |                     | Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education(UACE or simply A-level) |
| Level 4 | Higher Education    | <b>Higher Education Certificate</b>                              |
| Level 5 |                     | Ordinary Diploma   |
| Level 6 |                     | Advanced/Higher Diploma  |
| Level 7 |                     | Bachelors  |
| Level 8 |                     | Masters degrees/ Post Graduate Certificate/Diploma               |
| Level 9 |                     | Doctorate  |

# Adoption of HAEP

- The adoption from the regulator perspective was anchored on the available regulatory framework .
- Adoption by Universities: Currently out the 56 Universities, 21 are accredited to run HEAP
- Both public and Private Universities are on Board
- A total of 3,908 students have been admitted into the HAEP NCHE has however, had challenges with Professional Bodies and engagement is ongoing.

## Lessons Learnt

- Review of the available regulatory frameworks is critical
- Engagement of stakeholders such as professional bodies is paramount.
- Higher Education Institutions can be guided on implementation through development of guidelines
- Minimal number of students attempt to re-sit UNEB examinations.
- Students being examined in an environment that has inadequacies may not yield a pass on the second /third attempt.
- Need to pay attention to learners with special needs in HAEP implementation
- It is a worthwhile pathway.

# Enrollment Distribution

| INSTITUTION                                  | HEAP<br>ENROLLMENT | OWNERSHIP |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Busitema University                          | 472                | Public    |
| Kable University                             | 296                | Public    |
| Gulu University                              | 157                | Public    |
| Mbarara University of Science and Technology | 238                | Public    |
| Mountains of the Moon University             | 88                 | Public    |
| Lira University                              | 95                 | Public    |
| Muni University                              | 56                 | Public    |
| Bishop Stuart University                     | 156                | Private   |
| St Lawrence University                       | 191                | Private   |
| Clarke International University              | 115                | Private   |
| Metropolitan International University        | 93                 | Private   |
| Victoria University                          | 628                | Private   |
| Islamic Unviersity in Uganda                 | 146                | Private   |
| Cavendish University Uganda                  | 108                | Private   |
| Kampala International University             | 550                | Private   |
| Ndejje University                            | 102                | Private   |
| Uganda Martyrs University                    | 129                | Private   |
| Uganda Christian University                  | 107                | Private   |
| University of Kisubi                         | 96                 | Private   |
| Nkumba University                            | 85                 | Private   |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>3908</b>        |           |



**THANK YOU**