

FAQs for Part-time Diplomas under the New CET Qualification Framework

Refinements to CET Qualifications Framework

1. Why is there a need for a new qualifications framework?

The polytechnics are held in high regard by employers for their high-quality, market-relevant courses. Nonetheless, MOE recognises that more can be done to strengthen the support given to adult learners in skills upgrading. In addition to expanding CET training capacity, there is also scope to further customise CET courses offered at Post Secondary Educational Institutions or PSEIs catering to the needs of adult workers. This includes a more compact and flexible course structure that better facilitates lifelong learning.

2. Will the quality of programmes be affected as a result of a lower number of learning hours leading to a diploma?

No, the quality of programmes will not be affected. Programmes under the previous framework were modelled after equivalent pre-employment diplomas offered by the polytechnic. Under the new framework, the number of hours required to **obtain** a diploma (900 hours comprising 5 modular certificates of 180 hours each) is lower. This is because the curriculum has been enhanced and validated by employers and accreditation agencies to better cater to the needs of adult learners.

3. How would MOE work with the polytechnics to ensure that high standards of quality and academic rigour are maintained?

A CET Council was formed comprising of MOE officials, Polytechnic Principals and ITE's CEO to oversee the academic standards and rigour of CET offered in ITE and our polytechnics. The Council will ensure the development and delivery of industry-focused, learner-oriented CET programmes. The CET Council works closely with the institutions' academic schools and the relevant economic agencies to ensure the currency and quality of CET programmes. Feedback on the new framework was also sought from different focus groups comprising of present part-time polytechnic students, former students, companies who sponsor their employees, trade associations and local universities.

4. What are the differences between Polytechnic Diploma and WSQ Diploma programmes?

Polytechnic Diplomas are developed in consultation with industries and economic agencies and equip students with a broader level of industry-oriented skills with some focus on relevant content training. On the other hand, Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) Diplomas equip students with more practical, work-oriented skills that employers have identified as important in the workplace. The diplomas are

developed with direct validation with the industries for the required performance standards tied to existing and future needs of specific occupations and job areas.

Course structure

5. What is the difference between the new diploma programmes under the revised qualifications framework and the previous ones?

The new framework is based on modular certificates (MCs). This allows working adults to complete a diploma at a pace that they are comfortable with while being recognised for critical knowledge and skills they have picked up on the way to a full-fledged diploma. It also provides working adults with greater flexibility in selecting combinations of modules that are customised to their needs, and at the same time **obtain** a diploma with a relevant combination of modules. Each MC for a particular diploma equips students with content and skills in core industry domains, and hence is valued by employers. The MCs are developed in consultation with the industry to ensure greater curriculum-relevancy to the training needs of adult learners. Hence, the modular structure of the new Diploma allows for greater flexibility to encourage **upgrading** and lifelong learning.

6. When will the course commence?

The intakes for the Part-Time Diplomas will commence in every April and October of the year. Please visit our website at ptdip.sp.edu.sg for more details on each of the courses.

7. What is the duration of these courses?

Depending on the pace of learning, students can complete a Diploma in a minimum of 2.5 years. Students must complete all the five MCs within 5 years to successfully attain the Diploma qualification. The duration of each MC is approximately 6 months, with lessons held 3 to 4 times a week, from Mondays to Fridays on weekdays. Please note that schedules are subject to changes.

8. Is there a full-time programme for the above mentioned diplomas?

No, the above diplomas are offered only on a part-time basis.

Entry Requirements

9. What are the entry requirements? If I do not meet these requirements, can I still apply?

Since the diploma is designed for adult learners with working experience, the entry requirements will be ***a combination of academic qualifications and relevant work experience.***

The following are the entry requirements for the CET Diploma (please note that entry requirements may be different from course to course, please refer to the course website for the entry requirements of each course)

- a) Minimum of 3 GCE 'O' Levels or equivalent with at least 3 years of relevant work experience, or
- b) Nitec with GPA ≥ 3.5 with at least 2 years of relevant work experience, or
- c) Higher Nitec with at least 1 year of relevant work experience, or
- d) Nitec in Technology/Services with GPA ≥ 3.5 with at least 2 years of relevant working experience and successful completion of bridging programme conducted by ITE, or
- e) Higher Nitec in Technology/Services with at least 1 year of relevant working experience and successful completion of bridging programme conducted by ITE, or
- f) Relevant WSQ Diploma qualification or equivalent (depending on sector, programme and level) with relevant working experience, and WPLN of Level ≥ 6 is required. WPLN is accepted as equivalent EL & Maths requirements for those with only WSQ Diploma qualifications.

10. What is WPLN? How do I know which level I am at? Where can I be assessed?

Workplace Literacy and Numeracy Programme (WPLN) serves as an alternative to traditional qualifications and offers training on generic employability skills to raise a worker's effectiveness and improve his work abilities. The foundational skills attained can be applied across all industries, enabling workers of all levels to better adapt to new job demands, work challenges and changing work environments. There are a total of 8 levels *in* the WPLN programme.

Interested applicants can register for WPLN assessment online at www.ces.gov.sg or by calling 6883 5885.

For more information, please refer to <http://www.ssg.gov.sg>

Subject Exemptions

11. If I have completed a similar subject at another institution, will I be granted subject exemptions?

All request for subject or module exemption has to be submitted using prescribed forms available at the PACE Academy and exemptions will be granted on a case-to-case basis.

Attendance Requirement

12. What is the attendance requirement for each subject?

You are required as a student of the course to attend lectures, tutorials, practical sessions, discussions, assessments, presentations and other activities that are part of the course.

As adult learners, we do understand that there will be times when you are not able to do so, thus the expectation is that you must achieve a minimum of 50% attendance.

Assessment & Progression

13. What are the modes of assessments for this course?

The assessment modes are usually through written examinations, assignments, practical tests, and presentations.

For more details of the modes of assessment for each course, please visit the course websites.

14. Do I have to repeat the whole MC if I fail 1 module within the MC?

You would not be awarded the MC if you did not pass all the modules in the MC. You will be advised if you fail one module in the MC to either repeat that module or the MC.

15. Is there supplementary exam for the failed module?

There will be no supplementary exams for any failed module in a MC.

16. Is there subsidy for the repeat modules?

There will be no subsidy. Students are required to pay full fee for repeat modules or MCs.

17. Can I progress to the next MC if I fail any module(s) within my current MC?

Yes, you may, but you will need to repeat & pass the failed module(s) in order to be awarded the MC.

18. What are the criteria to be eligible for graduation in the Diploma?

Students are required to have passed all prescribed modules *in the five prescribed MCs* in order to graduate with the Diploma.

19. What qualification do I get if I complete a MC?

You will receive a Certificate in the domain area if you pass all the subjects within that MC.

20. Can I progress to degree and post-diploma programmes after I graduate with a Diploma qualification?

Those who wish to progress to relevant degree and post-diploma programmes after the diploma may do so. They may need to complete a bridging programme to strengthen the academic foundation in specific areas required by universities.

CET Qualification Award (CQA)

21. The CQA for part-time diplomas at the polytechnics is repurposed into higher upfront subsidies. As such, the CQA award is discontinued from 1 July 2016. However, Singapore Citizen students who meet the following criteria will continue to be eligible for the CQA:

- i. The part-time diploma qualification is the highest full qualification that the SC student has obtained;
- ii. The existing SC students have up to 2 Modular Certificates left to attain a full qualification on or after 1 July 2016; and
- iii. The last module is completed before 1 October 2017.

Further Enquiries

22. If I have further enquiries, what can I do?

You may email us at ptenquiry@sp.edu.sg. You may also visit our counter to enquire at:

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