



# **TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT POLICY**

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<b>Accountable executive manager</b>	Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning
<b>Responsible division</b>	Teaching and Learning
<b>Status</b>	Approved
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## **TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT POLICY OF THE NWU**

### **Preamble**

Against the background of the dream to be an internationally recognised university in Africa, distinguished for engaged scholarship, social responsiveness and an ethic of care, the Council of the North-West University (NWU) has adopted this Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy of the NWU on 16 March 2023.

### **1 Interpretation and application**

- 1.1 This policy and all related documents must be interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with –
  - 1.1.1 the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (“the Constitution”);
  - 1.1.2 the Higher Education Act, 101 of 1997 (“the Act”);
  - 1.1.3 the National Qualifications Framework Act, 67 of 2008;
  - 1.1.4 the Statute of the North-West University (2022) (“the Statute”),
  - 1.1.5 the legislative directives which form the regulatory framework for teaching, learning and assessment in Higher Education, and
  - 1.1.6 the NWU General Academic Rules;
- 1.2 The following NWU documents and policies must be read in conjunction with this policy:
  - 1.2.1 Rules for Teaching, Learning and Assessment
  - 1.2.2 Teaching and Learning Strategy 2021-2025;
  - 1.2.3 Declaration on the Decolonisation of University Education;
  - 1.2.4 Open Educational Resources Policy;
  - 1.2.5 Framework for micro-credentials at the NWU;
  - 1.2.6 Policy on Academic Integrity;
  - 1.2.7 Admissions Policy;
  - 1.2.8 General Academic Rules;
  - 1.2.9 Transformation Charter;
  - 1.2.10 Policy on Students with Disabilities;
  - 1.2.11 Policy on Student Discipline;
  - 1.2.12 Human Rights Policy;
  - 1.2.13 HIV/AIDS Policy;

- 1.2.14 Global Engagement Policy;
- 1.2.15 Language Policy;
- 1.2.16 Quality Policy;
- 1.2.17 Library and Information Services Policy;
- 1.2.18 Records, Archives and Museum Management Policy;
- 1.2.19 Risk and Compliance Policy;
- 1.2.20 NWU Policy on Business Continuity;
- 1.2.21 Open Access Policy;
- 1.2.22 Institutional Rules on Student Vaccinations;
- 1.2.23 Faculty yearbooks, and
- 1.2.24 the principles, guidelines and strategies contemplated in paragraph 3.
- 1.3 The Glossary of teaching-learning related acronyms, concepts and designations serves as a directory to inform this Policy.

## **2 Policy statement**

Founded on the values of and the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution and in pursuit of the realisation of its 2015-2025 Strategy (as amended), it is the policy of the NWU –

- 2.1 to promote the objectives of the Act;
- 2.2 to provide multimodal education and strive for continuous transformation of its curriculum, supported through the use of suitable technologies to provide a high quality and seamless lecturer-student engagement, so that students emerge as socially responsive and educated graduates;
- 2.3 to support its students so that they can progressively become self-directed and lifelong learners who make responsible, ethical, and distinctive contributions to society and the world of work;
- 2.4 to pursue these objectives by:
  - 2.4.1 ensuring good governance of teaching and learning;
  - 2.4.2 supporting qualification and academic programme planning, design and development;
  - 2.4.3 supporting and enhancing excellent and innovative teaching and learning in an enabling teaching-learning environment;
  - 2.4.4 attracting, developing and retaining excellent teaching-learning staff ;
  - 2.4.5 improving and supporting student success and
  - 2.4.6 transforming and differentiating the curriculum to attain the NWU graduate attributes.

## **3 Principles, guidelines and strategies**

The deputy vice-chancellor: teaching and learning must, subject to the approval of senate, develop and implement principles, rules and strategies for coordinated decision making regarding all matters related to teaching, learning and assessment across the university, focusing on continuous transformation as required to

- 3.1 improve student access, retention and academic success;
- 3.2 create equally meaningful and appropriate learning opportunities for a diverse student body on the three campuses, and for distance education students;
- 3.3 develop in students the NWU graduate attributes as stated in the university's teaching and learning strategy;

- 3.4 plan, implement, monitor, manage and improve teaching quality and learning support with a view to enhance student learning;
- 3.5 develop and maintain the academic offering to ensure its relevance, quality and responsiveness, and its continued alignment to the requirements determined by the statutory and regulatory bodies;
- 3.6 integrate blended, hyflex and online learning opportunities as and when suitable and possible, given available resources, as a means to enhance student access and student preparedness for the workplace in a digital era, and to
- 3.7 ensure that teaching and learning at the NWU adhere to national criteria for effective outcomes-based education in the higher education sector.

#### **4 Scope of application**

This policy applies to all role players in and aspects of teaching, learning and assessment at the NWU, and specifically to:

- the student,
- the lecturer,
- the teaching, learning and assessment environment,
- teaching, learning and assessment management, financing, and support, and
- the academic offering of the NWU, irrespective of delivery mode.

#### **5 Teaching and Learning context**

The rules, procedures and practices associated with all teaching, learning and assessment must be applied taking into consideration that –

- 5.1 in all teaching, learning and assessment contexts, staff and students are subject to specific rules and codes of conduct;
- 5.2 teaching, learning and assessment-related matters must take the transformation agenda of the university into consideration;
- 5.3 the faculty boards must regularly approve faculty integrated teaching and learning plans to guide the development and transformation of teaching, learning and assessment;
- 5.4 faculties and relevant teaching and learning support departments are co-responsible for the relevance, integrity and standards of the academic offering;
- 5.5 faculty boards must ensure that Faculty teaching, learning and assessment practices are in keeping with this policy;
- 5.6 teaching, learning and assessment must be student-centred, and focused on active, participative, inclusive and meaningful learning within a supportive environment;
- 5.7 the demonstration of excellence in teaching and learning is relevant in the academic promotion process;
- 5.8 innovative and appropriate teaching approaches in the blended, online, contact and distance environments must enable students to learn;
- 5.9 appropriate ICT-integration (blended learning) and e-learning must constitute an integral part of the learning provision within selected academic programmes;
- 5.10 the quality of the student experience and academic success in all academic programmes must rely upon the successful integration of faculties with all student-support resources, including Library and Information Services, the Career Centre, the Centre for Teaching and Learning, Student Counselling Services, Supplemental Instruction, Peer Mentoring, Writing Centres, Reading Laboratories, Residence Management, and financial support.
- 5.11 an enabling Teaching and Learning Environment (TLE) that supports and enhances effective and high-quality teaching and learning must be developed and maintained continuously;

5.12 funding must be earmarked and reviewed annually for the progressive realisation and improvement of teaching, learning and assessment at the NWU in accordance with the context prescribed above.

## **6 Implementation, monitoring and review of the Policy**

6.1 Responsibility for the Policy lies with the deputy vice-chancellor: teaching and learning.

6.2 Monitoring of the implementation of the Policy lies with each faculty board, chaired by the executive dean of a Faculty.

6.3 The Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy must be reviewed every three years.

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