



TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT POLICY

Reference number	8P/8
Accountable executive manager	Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning
Policy owner	Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning
Responsible division	Teaching and Learning
Status	<p>Approved</p> <p>The TLA Policy replaced the following previous policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching and Learning Policy (Policy Number: 8P) • Academic Programme Management Policy (Policy Number: 8P/8.1)) • Policy on Work-Integrated and Service Learning (Policy Number: 8P/8.1.6.9) • Policy on Supplemental Instruction at the NWU (Policy Number: 8P/8.4.1) • Recognition of Prior Learning Policy (Policy Number: 8P/8.4.3) • Policy on students with disabilities (Policy Number: 7P/7.3.4) • Policy for Feedback about Teaching and Learning by Students (Policy Number: 8P/8.1.6.4) • Policy on the Institutional Teaching Excellence Awards (Policy Number: 8P/8.1.3) • Assessment and Moderation and Policy (Policy Number: 8P/8.1.7) • Study Guide Policy (Policy Number: 8P/8.1.6.1)
Approved by	Council
Date of approval	18 March 2019
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Web address of this policy	http://www.nwu.ac.za/gov_man/policy/index.html
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TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT POLICY OF THE NWU

Against the background of the university's dream to be an internationally recognised university in Africa, distinguished for engaged scholarship, academic excellence, social responsiveness, and an ethic of care the Council of the North-West University (NWU) has adopted this policy on 18 March 2019 to give strategic direction to the development, transformation and implementation of high quality teaching and learning.

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 (2017) (“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 documents and policies must be read in conjunction with this policy:
 - 1.2.1 the NWU Rules for Teaching, Learning and Assessment
 - 1.2.2 the NWU Teaching and Learning Strategy;
 - 1.2.3 the NWU Declaration on the imperative to Decolonise and Transform the Curriculum;
 - 1.2.3 the Open Educational Resources Declaration;
 - 1.2.4 the NWU Admissions Policy;
 - 1.2.5 the NWU Library and Information Services Policy;
 - 1.2.6 the Policy on Supplemental Instruction;
 - 1.2.7 the Policy on Students with Disabilities;
 - 1.2.8 the NWU Quality Policy;
 - 1.2.9 the NWU Behavioural Policy;
 - 1.2.10 the Internationalisation Policy,
 - 1.2.11 the faculty yearbooks, and
 - 1.2.12 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 human rights enshrined in the Constitution and in pursuit of the realisation of its 2015-2025 Strategy, it is the policy of the NWU –

- 2.1 to promote the objectives of the Act;
- 2.2 to offer innovative quality teaching and learning with a view to produce graduates endowed with the knowledge, skills and competences that will help address national human resource, economic and

development needs and contribute towards the building of a skilled and capable workforce and sustainable communities;

- 2.3 that the university's internal success model, sustainability and national and international responsiveness must be the key concepts that inform teaching and learning across all modes of provision at the NWU;
- 2.4 that academic programme niches of excellent quality, the most appropriate proportion of undergraduate/postgraduate and national/international students, suitable modes of provision for different qualifications and student profiles, an excellent student learning experience, and retention of a competitive edge while remaining financially viable and market driven must be planned carefully;
- 2.5 to be committed to transform and position itself as a unitary institution of superior academic excellence with a commitment to academic freedom and social justice;
- 2.6 to be committed to the ongoing investment in and continuous professional development of teaching competence of its academics consistent with the mission and strategic directions of the university, and the unique developmental needs of academic employees at their different career stages, and
- 2.7 to be committed to formative and summative assessment that is fair, valid, integral to the learning process, efficient and rigorous.

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 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 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 annually 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 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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