

EDUCATION BUREAU CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 40/2017

From : Secretary for Education To : Supervisors / Heads of all
Ref.: : EDB(FE)CR11/12/2041/00 Pt.10 Secondary Schools
Date : 17 February 2017

Updated Revised Common Descriptors for Associate Degree and Higher Diploma Programmes under the New Academic Structure (Version as at February 2017)

Summary

This circular memorandum serves to inform heads of secondary schools of the updated Revised Common Descriptors for Associate Degree (AD) and Higher Diploma (HD) programmes under the New Academic Structure (NAS) (Version as at February 2017) which supplements the arrangement for Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C)) for admission purpose. This circular memorandum should be read in conjunction with the Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 146/2016 “Senior Secondary Applied Learning Courses (2017-19 Cohort)”.

Background

2. The NAS has been implemented since September 2009, with the first cohort of students taking the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination in 2012. Students holding the HKDSE have the opportunity of pursuing different pathways to further their studies in Hong Kong and other places.

Updated Revised Common Descriptors for AD and HD programmes

3. Under the NAS, the HKDSE is an entrance qualification for AD and HD programmes. The Updated Revised Common Descriptors for AD and HD programmes (Version as at March 2016) set out that applicants are eligible to apply for admission to AD or HD programmes if they meet the minimum entrance

requirements of Level 2 in five HKDSE subjects including English and Chinese. Each applicant is allowed to use up to two Applied Learning (ApL) subjects in the application.

4. ApL(C) should in general be accepted as an alternative Chinese Language qualification, among other acceptable Chinese Language qualifications, for eligible non-Chinese speaking students (NCS). It is intended to provide an additional channel exclusively for NCS students fulfilling the specified circumstances¹ to obtain an alternative Chinese language qualification to prepare them for their further studies and work. By design, ApL(C) is a language course using the vocational field as the context. It differs from other ApL courses which focus on the knowledge and beginners' skill set related to a specific professional/vocational field. Against this background, ApL(C) cannot be treated as an elective subject, and hence the two ApL subjects as mentioned in paragraph 3 above do not include ApL(C). For clarity, the Revised Common Descriptors are updated to specify the above arrangement.

5. The updated Revised Common Descriptors (Version as at February 2017) are available on the websites of the Information Portal for Accredited Post-secondary Programmes (iPASS) (www.ipass.gov.hk) and the Concourse for the Self-financing Post-secondary Education (www.cspe.edu.hk).

Enquiries

6. General enquiries may be directed to the Further Education Division of the Education Bureau at 3509 7411.

(Ms Pecvin YONG)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections – for information

¹ Students have learnt Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education; or students have learnt Chinese Language for six years or more in schools, but have been taught an adapted and simpler curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in local schools.