Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Articulation at Higher Education Level

A Case Study from a Private Provider

Engelbrecht, T., Kleyn, A & Smit, J.
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Who is Southern Business School?

- Registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a Private Higher Education Institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997
- Registration Certificate No: 2002/HE07/015
Who is Southern Business School?

- Established in 1996 as a Certificate in Management Provider
- Registered: 4 500 students
- Currently we offer:
  - Certificates
  - Diplomas
  - Advanced Diplomas
  - BBA
  - **BPP**
  - BBA Hons
  - **BPP Hons**
CONVERSATION ON RPL: PURPOSE

• A RPL Model was designed and developed and it has been implemented over the last five years.

• Currently, this RPL Model is being assessed and critically reflected upon in terms of enhanced effectiveness and best thinking practices.

• For example, determining the possibility of exemptions based on the outcomes of workplace learning interventions.

• The paper will also discuss the findings of a study which tracked the progress of learners admitted to degree programmes at the Southern Business School (SBS), via RPL.
• NQF Act 67 of 2008 (Republic of South Africa, 2008)

• RPL POLICY of Southern Business School
RPL PRINCIPLES
@ SOUTHERN BUSINESS SCHOOL

• Inclusive
• Flexible system of assessment/accreditation
• Internationally recognised principles: access/fairness/openness/support
• Maximum portability (manageability/mobility)
• Focus on acquired competencies rather than teaching/learning
ASSESSMENT

• Portfolio’s

• Assignments

• Mainly interviews (panel)
1. Receive an enquiry about the RPL process via phone/email/interview.

2. Ask student to forward the following documents (portfolio):
   - CV with broad job description;
   - Copy of any qualifications with relevant academic report (subjects and marks);
   - Copy of Grade 12 Certificate;
   - Copy of ID; and
   - Copy of any diploma/certificate/course/workshop.
PROCESS continued

3. Screening of document and identification of exemption and/or RPL subjects.

4. Send quote to student with explanation of RPL process.

5. Student must confirm by sending proof of payment.

6. Inform the candidate about the qualification or unit standard requirements.

7. Support and guide the candidate in the collection of evidence.

8. Help the candidate plan for the assessment.
9. Inform the candidate about the arrangements surrounding the assessment.
10. Conduct the assessments according to the relevant ETQA/SETA principles and policies.
11. Provide feedback.
12. Forward letter to student about the outcome and inform him/her to register for the next semester.

15. After ratification, the student is informed in writing. This letter must be attached to his/her registration documents.

16. RPL documents to Administration Department to load RPL credits and exemptions on the student’s record.
THE ROLE OF THE RPL ADVISOR

• The RPL advisor’s role must be distinguished from that of the RPL assessor.

• The RPL advisor should counsel the candidate regarding the RPL process, conducting a screening interview and furnish information.
Ms AM Kleyn (RPL Advisor/Assessor)

• Obtained a Masters Certificate in Prior Learning Assessment (CAEL) – De Paul University (Chicago)

• Work experience as RPL ADVISOR / ASSESSOR
  • 01.06.1999 – 30.09.2003 at Technikon SA/UNISA.
  • 01.02.2010 – until date at Southern Business School.
  • From 29 April to 9 May 2008 did training at University of Mauritius to set up their RPL department and the RPL process.
# PROGRESS OF LEARNERS

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<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Total Candidates</th>
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<td>DMAN</td>
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Private Bag X03, Helderkruin, 1733
Plot 10, R28 Service Road, Diswilmar, Krugersdorp
Phone: +27 (0) 11 662 1444
Fax: +27 (0) 11 662 1462
E-mail: info@sbs.ac.za
Web: http://sbs.ac.za