



REGISTRATION AND RECOGNITION UNIT

EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

Name of Professional Body	Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa (AHPCSA)
Statutory or Non-Statutory Body	Statutory
Sector	Health
Physical Address	6 Castelli, Il Villaggio, 5 De Havilland Crescent South, Perseus Technopark, Pretoria 0184
Application Signed by CEO / Registrar/ Board Chairperson	Yes
Number of Designations Applied for	12
Date of Site Visit	4 July 2025
Date of Publishing	



PROFESSIONAL BODY RECOGNITION AND PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION REGISTRATION EVALUATION REPORT
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NAME OF BODY: Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa (AHPCSA)

Background

The AHPCSA is a Statutory Council established in terms of section 2 of the Allied Health Professions Act, 63 of 1982, to regulate complementary medicine practitioners and therapists, set standards for education and protect the public.

The objectives of the AHPCSA are to:

- assist in the promotion and protection of the health of the population of the Republic;
- govern, administer and set policy relating to the professions registered with the council;
- control the practice of the professions and to investigate in accordance with the provisions of this Act complaints relating to the affairs of practitioners and students;
- control the registration of persons in respect of any profession and to set standards for the training of intending practitioners;
- advise the Minister on any matter falling within the scope of this Act as it relates to the professions registered with the council;

Compliance summary table

No	Item	Yes	No
1	Legally Constituted Entity	✓	
2	Good Corporate Governance Practices	✓	
3	Transformation	✓	
4	Human Resources	✓	
5	Premises	✓	
6	Financial Resources	✓	
7	Awarding of Professional Designations	✓	
8	Recognition of Prior Learning		✓
9	Continuing Professional Development	✓	
10	Membership Database	✓	
11	Career Advice Information	✓	
12	Code of Conduct and Protection of the Public	✓	
13	Education and Training	✓	
14	The Proliferation of Professional Bodies	✓	
15	Professional Designations	✓	
16	Application fees	✓	

1. Area of concern

Recognition of Prior Learning

AHPCSA does not have the policy and criteria on recognition of prior learning. At the site visit, they indicated that they are currently using a grandfather clause as an alternative for the persons who do not have an underlying qualification. In addition, they indicated that they are developing an RPL policy as required by the policy and criteria for professional bodies.

Professional designations

AHPCSA did not provide the designation competencies for all their professional designations. Instead of providing competencies for each designation, they just stated "Open private practice or work for a teaching institution". At the site visit, SAQA advised AHPCSA on what the designation competencies are and how they ought to be written.

2. The Registration and Recognition Unit (R&R) Unit will notify the Qualifications Committee (QualCom) and the SAQA Board that the registration requirements for professionals are stated in the Allied Health Professions Act, 63 of 1982 (AHPA). Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and designation competencies are not stated in the AHPA. The AHPCSA, therefore, will develop and submit the RPL policy and the designation competencies once approved by the relevant structures within the AHPCSA .

3. CRITERIA FOR RECOGNISING A PROFESSIONAL BODY

The Registration and Recognition (R&R) Unit evaluated the application against the *Policy and Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation for the Purposes of the NQF Act (as amended, 2023)*. Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa (AHPCSA) was found to meet some of the criteria for recognising a professional body listed below:

3.1 Legally Constituted Entity

The AHPCSA is a statutory council established in terms of section 2 of the Allied Health Professions Act, 63 of 1982.

The following document(s) were submitted:

- Allied Health Professions Act, 63 of 1982.
- List of Council members.
- List of members.

3.2 Good Corporate Governance Practices

AHPCSA submitted the following documents:

- Terms of Reference of the Council.
- Elective minutes of the Council meeting of 8 May 2024.
- Appointment of the Council members.
- Charter of Good Practice for Councillors.

Composition of the Council in terms of section 2.

(1) The council shall consist of the following members, namely-

(a) ten persons elected in the prescribed manner of whom-

- (i) one is registered as an acupuncturist and has been elected in the prescribed manner;
 - (ii) one is registered as an ayurvedic practitioner and has been elected in the prescribed manner;
 - (iii) one is registered as a chiropractor and has been elected in the prescribed manner;
 - (iv) one is registered as a homeopath and has been elected in the prescribed manner;
 - (v) one is registered as a naturopath and has been elected in the prescribed manner;
 - (vi) one is registered as an osteopath and has been elected in the prescribed manner;
 - (vii) one is registered as a phytotherapist and has been elected in the prescribed manner;
 - (viii) one is registered as a therapeutic aromatherapist and has been elected in the prescribed manner;
 - (ix) one is registered as a therapeutic massage therapist and has been elected in the prescribed manner
 - (x) one is registered as a therapeutic reflexologist and has been elected in the prescribed manner;
- and
- (b) six persons appointed by the Minister of whom-
- (i) one person shall represent the Department of Health;
 - (ii) one person shall be appointed on account of his or her knowledge of the law; and
 - (iii) four persons shall be community representatives.

(2) The Minister shall appoint the community representatives referred to in subsection (1) (b) (iii) after the registrar has obtained nominations in the prescribed manner.

(3) After the Minister has appointed the community representatives referred to in subsection (1) (b) (iii) the Minister shall inform the Registrar in writing of the names of such community representatives. In terms of section 10A of the Act,

The Minister may, on the recommendation of the council and by notice in the Gazette, establish a professional board with regard to any profession in respect of which a register is kept in terms of this Act, or with regard to two or more such professions.

The Minister may, on the recommendation of the council, make regulations relating to the constitution, functions, functioning and term of office of members of a professional board.

In terms of section 10C of the Act, the objectives of the boards are:

- (a) to advise the council on any matter, falling within the scope of this Act, that relates to any profession falling within the ambit of the professional board, in order to support the universal norms and values of the profession, with emphasis on professional practice, democracy, transparency, equity, accessibility and community involvement;
- (b) to consult and liaise with other professional boards on matters affecting the professional board;
- (c) to advise the council in respect of all matters affecting the training of persons in, and the manner of the exercise of the practices pursued in connection with, any profession falling within the ambit of the professional board;
- (d) to promote liaison in the field of education and training contemplated in paragraph (c) and to promote the standards of such training in the Republic and elsewhere;
- (e) to communicate to the council information, on matters of public importance, acquired by the professional board in the course of the performance of its functions under this Act;
- (f) to maintain and enhance the dignity of the profession and the integrity of the persons practising the profession; and
- (g) to guide the profession and to protect the public.

3.3 Transformation

AHPCSA did not submit its Transformation Policy.

At the site visit, the AHPCSA indicated that they do not have a transformation policy. However, they indicated that they are working on developing one.

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	2	0	0	4	6
Female	2	3	2	8	15
Total	4	3	2	12	21

3.4 Human Resources

AHPCSA submitted its staff organogram.

- AHPCSA has three permanent staff members responsible for the daily operations of the Council.
- The Registrar, assisted by two Administrative Officers, oversees the daily operations of the Council.
- The post of the Executive Assistant is vacant.

Demographic composition of staff members - 2024

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	1	0	0	0	1
Female	0	1	1	0	2
Total	1	1	1	0	3

3.5 Premises

AHPCSA submitted its title deed.

AHPCSA is located at 6 Castelli, Il Villaggio, 5 De Havilland Crescent South, Perseus Technopark, Pretoria 0184.

3.6 Financial Resources

- AHPCSA submitted its audited annual financial statements for the periods ending 31 December 2021, 2022, and 2023.
- According to the Auditor's opinion, the annual financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa as at 31 December 2023, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa.

- AHPCSA mainly generates income through rendering of services.

3.7 Awarding of Professional Designations

Section 15. Registration of practitioners

(1) Any person who desires to be registered as a practitioner of an allied health profession in terms of this Act, shall in the prescribed manner apply to the council for registration, and such application shall be accompanied by-

- (a) the qualification which in the applicant's submission entitles him to registration;
- (b) the prescribed registration fee and, in the case of an applicant who does not possess the prescribed qualification, also the prescribed application fee;
- (c) proof of identity, citizenship, good character and the authenticity and validity of the qualification submitted; and
- (d) such further documents and information as may be prescribed.

(2) For the purpose of considering any application contemplated in subsection (1), the council may require the applicant in support of the application to furnish such further proof, whether orally or in writing, regarding his identity, good character, training and experience, as the council may deem necessary and may require him to sit for such examination as the council may determine.

(3) The council may request the relevant professional board to consider an application in terms of subsection (1) and if after such investigation and enquiries as the relevant professional board may deem necessary, it is satisfied that the applicant concerned may be registered in terms of this Act, such professional board shall recommend to council the approval of such an application.

(3A) If the council is satisfied that an applicant may be registered in terms of the Act, it shall approve the application and the registrar shall thereupon register the applicant by-

- (a) issuing an appropriate certificate of registration to him or her; and
- (b) entering the prescribed particulars in respect of him or her in the appropriate register.

(4) If the council refuses to approve an application, the applicant concerned shall be notified of such a decision in writing and on the grounds on which it is based.

(5) Any person who is registered or deemed to be registered in terms of this Act shall, in the practice of his or her profession, only state particulars of those degrees, diplomas or certificates entered in the appropriate register against his or her name and any other qualification recommended by the professional board and approved by the council.

(6)(a) The council may delegate any of the powers conferred upon it by this section to the registrar, but shall not be divested of any power so delegated.

(b) Any registration or refusal of registration by the registrar in the exercise of a power delegated to him in terms of paragraph (a), shall be of full force and effect, unless it is set aside or amended by the council at its first meeting following upon the date on which such registration or refusal of registration occurred.

(7) Every person who desires to have a qualification registered, other than the qualification by virtue of which he or she has in the first instance been registered, or to have a speciality registered, shall, upon payment of the

prescribed fee and subject to the provisions of subsection (2), be entitled to have such other qualification or such speciality entered in the register.

Removal of names from, and restoration thereof to, register

(1) The council may instruct the registrar, subject to the provisions of subsection (5), to remove the name of any practitioner from the register if the council is satisfied that that practitioner-

- (a) has died;
- (b) has left the Republic permanently or was absent from the Republic without the council's permission for a continuous period of more than three years;
- (c) has failed to pay any fees, including annual fees, which he owes the council, within three months after the date upon which payment became due;
- (d) has failed to notify the registrar of any change in his residential address or postal address or in the address of his practice within three months after any such change;
- (e) has requested that his name be removed from the register, in which case he may be required by the registrar to lodge with him an affidavit or affirmation to the effect that no disciplinary or criminal action is being or is likely to be taken against the first-mentioned;
- (f) has been registered in error or through fraud; or is unable for any reason to practise the profession for which he or she is registered in terms of this Act.

(2) Notice of the removal by virtue of the provisions of any one of paragraphs (b) up to and including (f) of subsection (1) of his name from the register shall be given by the registrar to the person concerned by registered letter sent through the post to his address appearing in the register.

(3) As from the date on which notice was given in terms of subsection (2)-

(a) any registration certificate issued to the person concerned shall be deemed to be cancelled;

(b) he shall cease to practise any profession in respect of which he was registered as a practitioner or to perform any act specially pertaining to any profession in respect of which he was registered; and

(c) he shall cease to indicate any profession of his upon his nameplate or in any other manner, until his name has been restored to the register.

(4) The council shall instruct the registrar to restore to the register a name removed therefrom by virtue of the provisions of any one of paragraphs (b) up to and including (f) of subsection

(1) if the person concerned-

(a) applies on the prescribed form for the restoration of his name to the register;

(b) pays the prescribed fee; and

(c) complies with such other requirements as the council may determine.

(5) The council shall not under subsection (1) instruct that the name of any person be removed from any register kept under section 14 unless the council has consulted with the professional board established in respect of the profession concerned.

3.8 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

AHPCSA does not have an RPL policy.

At the site visit, the AHPCSA indicated that they are currently using a grandfather clause to register professionals. However, they are in the process of developing an RPL policy.

3.9 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

AHPCSA submitted the CPD guideline for the period starting 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025.

Introduction

- Graduation as a healthcare professional and registration as a practitioner does not guarantee that an individual's professional proficiency will be maintained for the rest of his/her professional life. There are two primary reasons for this: Firstly, the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for any health-related field is expanding constantly and this new knowledge is not always easily accessible by practitioners; and secondly, certain education and training acquired by students in healthcare professions may subsequently become out-dated after graduation.
- The purpose of the CPD programme is to ensure that any practitioner who is registered with the AHPCSA maintains current, but also acquires new and updated levels of knowledge, skills and ethical performance that will be of measurable benefit in professional practice and enhance and promote professional integrity. The beneficiary will ultimately be the patient. All such practitioners are required to complete a programme of approved continuing professional development activities in each calendar year.
- The activities are clustered together comprising a hierarchy of learning approaches and strategies. Practitioners shall select activities from the hierarchy to meet their particular needs or the specific demands of their practice environments. It is anticipated that the system will also address the specific South African healthcare environment by providing a range of activities that will allow the practitioners to meet the challenges faced in the current healthcare system.
- The hierarchy of activities detailed includes traditional learning experiences such as, but not limited to, attendance at conference presentations, workshops, structured courses and quality assurance audits of practices or groups of professionals in their work environments.

CPD Administration

- The CPD system will be administered by the Registrar on behalf of the AHPCSA and will be monitored by the CPD Committees. The registrar may, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the council, appoint a third-party service provider to assist with the administration of the CPD system.
- Any individual practitioner that attends CPD activities in order to comply with the statutory requirements as determined by the AHPCSA shall ensure that he/she is in possession of a certificate of attendance and upload the necessary certificate and/or documents on the CPD Administration online-platform and shall keep such certificates of attendance for a minimum of two years on record after the completion of the relevant cycle to comply with any random

compliance check. When and if an AHPCSA CPD Administration online-platform has been established, all practitioners shall register and utilise the CPD Administration website to record all their CPD activities.

- The CPD Committees shall ensure that the requisite standards are met and maintained by the CPD service providers and shall be responsible for conducting quality checks on the activities of the CPD service providers offering CPD activities from time to time.

Individual CPD Record Activity

- Each practitioner shall be required to maintain an official AHPCSA Individual CPD Activity Record from the commencement of the CPD programme which shall include the following particulars:
 - The full names of the practitioner;
 - the AHPCSA registration number;
 - the registered profession(s);
 - the name of the CPD Service Provider;
 - the Service Provider's CPD Activity number;
 - the topic of the activity;
 - the level of the activity;
 - the number of continuing education units (CEUs) for that activity;
 - and the attendance/completion date.
- When an AHPCSA CPD Administration online platform has been established, such platform shall replace the manual Individual CPD Activity Record and all information shall then be required to be uploaded onto the AHPCSA CPD Administration online platform.
- It will be the duty and obligation of each practitioner to ensure that his/her individual CPD record is uploaded onto the applicable AHPCSA CPD Administration online platform.
- The AHPCSA Individual CPD Activity record, whether uploaded online or manually, must be updated regularly, within (2) two months from the date the CPD Activity has been completed or attended to and kept current with every learning activity attended or completed, so that it accurately reflects the CPD activities of the practitioner.

CPD Compliance Verification

- Individual practitioners shall ensure that they are in possession of the standard certificate of attendance for every activity that they have attended. They shall keep these for at least a further two years after completion of the cycle so that their certificates shall be available if required for random compliance verification.
- The CPD Committee may conduct compliance verification of individual practitioners at least once a cycle on a randomly selected sample of practitioners, either through the AHPCSA CPD Administration online-platform, or through the request of a hard copy of a CPD Individual Activity Form, with relevant annexures.
- When an individual practitioner is selected for compliance verification, he/she is obliged to forward the Individual Activity Record for each profession in which he / she is registered as per Annexure A that may have been obtained during the CPD cycle under review to the Registrar within 21 days on receipt of notification and/or allow the Registrar to extract the necessary information from the AHPCSA CPD Administration online-platform. For Level 3 qualifications a certified copy of the qualification is required. The required documents may be submitted in one of the following ways:
 - (a) Paper copies: Send by registered post to The Registrar, AHPCSA, Private Bag X28, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040;
 - (b) By hand delivery to the Registrar, AHPCSA, Castelli Suite, Il Villaggio, 5 De Havilland Crescent South, Perseus Technopark, Pretoria, or
 - (c) Electronic copies: Send to the AHPCSA CPD email address: cpd@ahpcsa.co.za; or
 - (d) if the AHPCSA CPD Administration online-platform is applicable, made available through the platform subject to being uploaded within the prescribed time frames.
- Non-compliance with any CPD requirement is an act or omission in respect of which council or the relevant professional board may take disciplinary action in terms of Section 29 of the Act and these Guidelines.

CPD Cycle and Measurement

- The system operates on a basis of trust. CPD points are linked to a hierarchy of learning activities based on whether the outcome is measurable or not, or is a structured learning programme.
- CPD will run over a two (2) year cycle with all practitioners required to accumulate forty (40) CPD points per cycle, fifty percent (50%) of which shall be profession-specific.
- A practitioner, who registers for the first time shall commence with his / her CPD programme immediately. CPD points will be calculated on a pro-rata basis for persons registering after the cycle has commenced, for the remainder of the cycle.
- A practitioner who accumulates more than the required total of CEUs in a cycle will be permitted to carry over a maximum of ten (10) CPD points to the next cycle.
- A practitioner shall be required to obtain a minimum of four (4) CPD points in AHPCSA-specific Bioethics and Jurisprudence per CPD cycle, by attending any CPD bioethics and jurisprudence lecture presented by an AHPCSA-approved lecturer, alternatively by successful completion of an AHPCSA-approved bioethics and jurisprudence course, available at www.aromasa.org.za, for which a minimum of 70% pass rate is required for this MCQ course to qualify for four (4) CPD points.
- If a CPD activity has been approved for a specific profession by a specific CPD Committee or approved by another South African statutory health council, all AHPCSA practitioners may attend that activity for CPD purposes if it is relevant to their specific Scope of Practice.

CPD Non-compliance

- The CPD committee will, on receipt of a non-compliant audit, request the Registrar to send the non-compliant practitioner a letter requesting reasons for the non-compliance:
 - (a) The non-compliant practitioner shall be afforded 10 (ten) days from the date of the written request to submit reasons and/or an explanation as to why he/she is not compliant alternatively proof of compliance for the specific cycle;
 - (b) In the event the non-compliant practitioner fails and/or refuses to submit reasons and/or an explanation for his/her non-compliance, or proof of compliance, after the lapse of the 10 (ten) days stipulated above, such conduct will be regarded as unprofessional and it is deemed that the practitioner admits guilt and accepts the consequences as a result of his/her non-compliance.
- After the lapse of the 10 (ten)-day period as set out above, the relevant CPD committee will attend to the matter, and determine whether the practitioner is indeed non-compliant, or not and make the following decision:
 - (a) That the practitioner is compliant; or
 - (b) that the practitioner is non-compliant.
- In the event that the practitioner is compliant, he/she will be informed accordingly.
- in the event that the relevant CPD committee finds that the practitioner is non-compliant, the CPD committee may recommend to the AHPCSA Council any of the following sanctions, which may be applied collectively and/or individually:
 - (a) Changing the category of registration to supervised practice until proof of compliance with the CPD requirements are submitted; and/or
 - (b) successfully passing a competency assessment administered by an institution of higher education and training, alternatively administered by the relevant professional board; and/or
 - (c) suspension from the register until submission of proof of compliance with the CPD requirements; and/or
 - (d) registration in a category that will provide full supervision as considered appropriate; and/or
 - (e) a remedial programme of continuing education and training as specified; and/or
 - (f) an examination is determined; and/or
 - (g) suspension from practice for a period of time; and/or
 - (h) a fine; and/or
 - (i) any other action as recommended to the AHPCSA Council by the CPD committee after the procedure has been followed as stipulated herein.
- If the non-compliant practitioner, despite any of the above sanctions, remains non-compliant or fails/refuses to comply with the directive and/or sanction recommended by the CPD committee and imposed by the AHPCSA Council, the non-compliant practitioner's conduct shall be regarded as unprofessional and an inquiry shall be held.

3.10 Membership Database

AHPCSA submitted a list of members.

- There are 2421 designated members on the AHPCSA membership database.
- There are 38 non-designated members on the AHPCSA membership database.

Composition of council - 2024

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	2	0	0	4	6
Female	2	3	2	8	15
Total	4	3	2	12	21

Demographic composition of staff members - 2024

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	1	0	0	0	1
Female	0	1	1	0	2
Total	1	1	1	0	3

Demographic composition of active individual members

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	53	121	13	631	818
Female	160	280	64	1086	1590
Total	214	371	77	1651	2408

Demographic composition of Registered Chiropractor

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	7	38	5	375	425
Female	29	99	13	424	565
Total	36	137	18	799	990

Demographic composition of Registered Homeopath

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	27	21	2	129	179
Female	60	90	4	232	386
Total	87	111	6	361	565

Demographic composition of Registered Naturopath

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	4	3	0	14	21
Female	8	6	10	20	44
Total	12	9	10	34	65

Demographic composition of Registered Acupuncturist

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	5	3	0	19	27
Female	8	6	1	20	35
Total	13	9	1	39	62

Demographic composition of Registered Therapeutic Massage Therapist

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	1	2	1	12	16
Female	11	2	2	56	71
Total	12	4	3	68	87

Demographic composition of Registered Therapeutic Reflexologist

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	1	8	0	11	20

Female	16	39	6	204	265
Total	17	47	6	215	285

Demographic composition of Registered Therapeutic Aromatherapist

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	0	1	1	2	4
Female	5	10	0	37	52
Total	5	11	1	39	56

Demographic composition of Registered Osteopath

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	0	1	0	12	13
Female	0	0	0	14	14
Total	0	1	0	26	27

Demographic composition of Registered Ayurveda Practitioner

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	0	3	0	0	3
Female	0	6	0	0	6
Total	0	9	0	0	9

Demographic composition of Registered Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Practitioner

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	1	31	2	50	84
Female	0	14	8	26	48
Total	1	45	10	76	132

Demographic composition of Registered Unani-Tibb Practitioner

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	3	9	2	1	15
Female	17	7	15	0	39
Total	20	16	17	1	54

Demographic composition of Registered Phytotherapist

Gender	Black	Indian	Coloured	White	Total
Male	4	1	0	6	11
Female	6	1	5	23	35
Total	10	2	5	29	46

3.11 Career Advice Information

AHPCSA did not submit evidence of career advice information. They only indicated on the application form that they work in collaboration with universities. At the site visit, they confirmed that they visit schools and institutions of higher learning as part of their career information advice programme.

3.12 Code of Conduct and Protection of the Public

AHPCSA submitted the following documents:

- Code of Ethics.
 - Disciplinary procedure.
 - Appeals procedure.
 - Sample of complaints register.
- The Code of Ethics articulates the values that AHPCSA wishes to foster in its members.
 - Members who contravene the Code of Ethics are subject to a disciplinary process.

Chapter 8 of the Act: The manner in which a complaint, charge or allegation shall be lodged against a practitioner or student.

- A complaint or charge or allegation of improper or disgraceful conduct against a practitioner or student shall be in writing, where possible in the form of an affidavit, addressed to the registrar by the person lodging it, and setting forth the conduct in question, and such complainant shall be prepared, if so requested, to give oral evidence in support of his complaint at a disciplinary inquiry before the board or a committee of the board.
- The complaint, charge or allegation and any accompanying document shall be submitted to the chairman, who shall then direct the registrar -
 - (a) to call for further information from the complainant;
 - (b) to forward to the accused copies of the documents received from the complainant or to inform the accused of the nature of such complaint or charge or allegation, calling upon him for a written explanation and warning him that such explanation may be used in evidence against him during a disciplinary inquiry which may allow; or (c) to refer the matter to the board.
- (1) On receipt of the replies called for under the preceding regulation, the registrar shall submit them to the chairman or, if no replies are received, the registrar shall report such fact to the chairman.
- (2) The chairman shall then make his recommendation on the matter, which, the registrar, together with all other documents concerning the case, shall refer to the board for consideration.
- If the board, on the strength of the information submitted, resolves that the conduct forming the subject of the complaint or charge or allegation does not constitute improper or disgraceful conduct or conduct which when regard is had to the accused's profession(s) is improper or disgraceful, or for any other reason should not be subjected to any inquiry, it shall take such action as it may deem fit.
- If the board resolves that the information submitted constituted prima facie evidence of improper or disgraceful conduct or conduct which when regard is had to the person's profession(s) is improper or disgraceful, it shall arrange for a disciplinary inquiry to be held.

Procedure at disciplinary enquiry

(a) (i) The inquiry is conducted by the board or a committee of the board in terms of powers delegated to such committee by the board

(ii) If the summons referred to in regulation 17(1)(b) has been served on or forwarded to the accused as prescribed in regulation 17(2), the inquiring body may proceed with the disciplinary inquiry even if he is not present.

(iii) If the accused is present, the chairman of the inquiring body (hereinafter referred to as "the presiding officer") shall read out such complaint or charge or allegation as may be contained in the summons addressed to the accused.

(b) (i) The accused, if present, shall then be asked by the presiding officer to plead guilty or not guilty to the complaint or charge or allegation against him: Provided that, if the accused by a personally signed letter has notified the registrar before the hearing that he pleads guilty to the complaint or charge or allegation against him, such plea of guilty may be entered as a plea in his absence.

(ii) If the accused refuses or fails to plead directly to such complaint or charge or allegation, or if the accused is absent and if a summon has been served on or forwarded to him as prescribed in regulation 17(2) and he has not notified the registrar in writing that he pleads guilty as aforesaid in regulation 19(b)(i), the presiding officer shall make a note of such fact and shall enter a plea of not guilty on behalf of the accused, and a plea so entered shall have the same result as if it had in fact been so pleaded.

(iii) If the accused pleads guilty, it shall be for the inquiring body to decide whether or not it wishes to hear evidence regarding such complaint or charge or allegation.

(c) (i) Where evidence pertaining to any complaint or charge or allegation requires to be adduced either because the accused has pleaded not guilty or because the inquiring body has decided that evidence should be adduced, the *pro forma* complainant shall be given the opportunity of stating his case and thereafter of leading evidence in support thereof.

(ii) Upon conclusion of such evidence the *pro forma* complainant's case shall be closed.

(d) (i) If the accused is present or is represented by an attorney or advocate, he or his legal representative shall be given the opportunity of stating his case and thereafter of leading evidence in support of it: Provided that the accused shall be allowed to present his defence in writing, should he so wish in which event such written exposition shall be read to the inquiring body.

(ii) If the accused is neither present nor represented, any letter, statement, explanation or defence

which he put forward as a result of a request in terms of regulation 13(b) or as a result of the summons issued in terms of regulation 17(1)(b), or both, shall be read to the inquiring body and shall be received as evidence.

(iii) After the accused or his legal representative has led his evidence or his written exposition, statement, explanation or defence has been read instead, his case shall be closed.

(e) If the inquiring body deems it advisable that further evidence be adduced in order to enable the inquiry body to arrive at a just decision, it may allow further evidence to be led by either the *pro forma* complainant or the accused or his legal representative or by both after their cases have been closed.

(f) After all evidence has been given, the *pro forma* complainant shall be allowed to address the inquiring body on the evidence and the legal position, and this shall be allowed whether or not the accused has led evidence.

(g) Thereafter the accused or his legal representative, if present, shall likewise be allowed to address the inquiring body.

(h) If it sees fit, the inquiring body may allow the *pro forma* complainant to reply to questions of law which the accused or his legal representative has raised in his address.

- Upon conclusion of the case the inquiring body shall deliberate thereon *in camera*.
- If the accused is found not guilty of the charge preferred against him, he shall be notified accordingly as soon as reasonably possible.
- If the inquiring body has determined, regarding any complaint or charge or allegation, that sufficient facts have been proved to its satisfaction to support such complaint or charge or allegation, it shall decide whether the conduct forming the subject of such complaint or charge or allegation so supported constitutes improper or disgraceful conduct, or conduct which when regard is had to the accused's profession is improper or disgraceful, and it shall announce its finding in this connection.
- After an announcement of a finding as aforesaid has been made or after the accused has pleaded guilty and the inquiring body has decided that no evidence is to be led, the *pro forma* complainant shall adduce evidence of previous convictions of the accused under the Act if any such convictions have previously been recorded against him: Provided that it shall be lawful for the *pro forma* complainant to adduce such evidence only if notice was given to the accused prior to the commencement of the hearing that, in the event of his being found guilty, such evidence would be adduced.
- The presiding officer shall then afford the *pro forma* complainant an opportunity of making representations regarding a suitable sentence to be imposed.
- The presiding officer shall then afford the accused's legal representative, if present, an opportunity of addressing the inquiring body in mitigation of the sentence to be imposed and of leading evidence in mitigation.
- Thereupon the inquiring body shall deliberate *in camera* upon the sentence to be imposed.
- Where a committee of the board finds an accused guilty and the sentence imposed is -
 - not subject to confirmation by the board in order to take, the committee shall report its findings to the board and cause the requirements of section 24(2) to be complied with;
 - subject to confirmation by the board in order to take, the committee shall submit all relevant documents together with the record of the evidence and its findings to the board for consideration and shall inform the accused that he may make written representations to the board regarding the exercise of its discretion concerning the confirmation of the imposition of such sentence.
- the board shall not consider any representations regarding the exercise of its discretion concerning the confirmation of the imposition of the sentence, unless such representations are submitted by the accused or his legal representative, to the registrar, for presentation to the board, within 30 days after he has been informed that he may make such representations and any representations made within the 30 days period shall be considered by the board at its next meeting.

The appeal

- (1) Any person who considers himself aggrieved -
 - by the refusal of the council or a committee to register him in terms of this Act or to restore his name to a specific register;
 - by any penalty imposed on him or her under section 24; and

- by the removal of his name from a register under section 21(1), may within a period of three months after the date of such refusal, imposition of penalty or removal, appeal to an appeal committee.
- (2) Any appeal committee referred to in subsection (1), may be appointed by the Minister and shall consist of-
 - a person who is legally qualified and who has practiced in the field of law for a period of at least 10 years who shall be the chairperson; and
 - two practitioners who practise the same profession as the appellant concerned, who have no direct interest in the affairs of the appellant, who are not in the employment of the appellant and who are not members of the council or professional board concerned.
- The appellant may appear in person or through a legal representative before the appeal committee, or submit written statements or arguments in support of his appeal.
- The procedure in connection with the noting and prosecution of an appeal in terms of this section, shall be as prescribed.
- The appeal committee hearing an appeal under this section, may confirm or set aside the refusal, penalty or removal forming the subject of the appeal, and may, if it is set aside, give such judgment as in its opinion ought to have been given by the council or committee and may direct the council to do everything necessary to give effect to the judgment of the appeal committee.
- The commencement of a refusal, penalty or removal against which an appeal is lodged, shall be suspended by the lodging of an appeal in terms of subsection (1), until the appeal is disposed of by the appeal committee or withdrawn by the appellant.
- Any member of the appeal committee who is not in the full-time service of the State, may be paid such remuneration and allowance as the Minister may from time to time determine with the concurrence of the Minister of State Expenditure.

Complaints register

AHPCSA submitted its complaints register.

- There are three cases of misconduct under investigation involving the following:
 - Issuing of death certificates.
 - Sexual misconduct.
 - Advertising misconduct.

3.13 Education and Training

AHPCSA complies with Clause 17 of the Policy and Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation for the Purposes of the National Qualification Framework Act, Act 67 of 2008 (2023).

- AHPCSA is not accredited as an education and training institution by a Quality Council.
- The Department of Higher Education and Training has not registered AHPCSA as an educational institution.

3.14 Proliferation of Professional Bodies

- The Health Profession Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is the other statutory council operating in the sector.
- The South African Association of Health and Skincare Professionals (SAAHSP) is a SAQA-recognised non-statutory professional body operating in the sector.

4 CRITERIA FOR RECOGNISING A PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION

4.1 Designation(s) to be Registered.

Designation Title: Registered Chiropractor

Short Description:

A registered Chiropractor is a complementary healthcare practitioner specialising in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mechanical disorders of the musculoskeletal system and the effects of these disorders on the function of the nervous system and general health. Chiropractic practitioners essentially rely upon noninvasive treatment methods and will refer patients to medical practitioners should medication or surgery be indicated. This approach is further reinforced by chiropractors in their promotion of healthy lifestyles such as the avoidance of smoking and excess stress, proper diet and exercise.

CRITERION

Underlying NQF Registered Qualification

Master of Health Sciences in Chiropractic, NQF Level 9

Experiential / Practical Experience / Experiential Learning

The completion of an internship programme is a requirement for AHPCSA registration.

Competency Assessment / Board Examination

N/A

Designation RPL Statement

N/A

Designation competencies:

Not provided.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

40 CPD points in a two-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Registered Chiropractor

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.ahpcsa.co.za.

Designation Title: Registered Homeopath

Short Description:

Registered Homeopath can conduct independent research under minimal guidance in a field related to Homoeopathy and contribute to new knowledge and production in that field. The research problem, its justification, process and outcomes is reported in a dissertation and demonstrated in a body of work (highly sophisticated and innovative) and/or other means which comply with the general accepted norms for research at this level.

CRITERION

Underlying NQF Registered Qualification

Master of Technology: Homoeopathy, NQF Level 9

Experiential / Practical Experience / Experiential Learning

The completion of an internship programme is a requirement for AHPCSA registration.

Competency Assessment / Board Examination

N/A

Designation RPL Statement

N/A

Designation competences:

Not provided.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

40 CPD points in a two-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Registered Homeopath

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.ahpcs.co.za.

Designation Title: Registered Naturopath

Short Description:

A registered Naturopath is a complementary healthcare practitioner diagnosing and treating patients according to naturopathic principles that encompass many forms of complementary and natural medicine. At a time when modern technology, environmental pollution, poor diet, and stress play an enormous role in the degradation of health, a Naturopath's ability to apply natural methods of healing is of considerable importance. By using natural therapies both acute and chronic ailments can be treated and by providing personalised care for each patient, the practitioner sees every person as a holistic unity of body, mind, and spirit.

CRITERION**Underlying NQF Registered Qualification**

Bachelor of Science in Complementary Health Sciences, NQF Level 8. Or, Bachelor of Naturopathy, NQF Level 8.

Experiential / Practical Experience / Experiential Learning

N/A

Competency Assessment / Board Examination

Board examination.

Designation RPL Statement

AHPCSA is using a grandfather clause and not an RPL policy.

Designation competencies:

Not provided.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

40 CPD points in a two-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Registered Naturopath

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.ahpcsa.co.za.

Designation Title: Registered Acupuncturist

Short Description:

A registered Acupuncturist is a complementary healthcare practitioner diagnosing and treating patients based on the philosophical approach of yin and yang. Acupuncture falls within the ambit of Chinese Medicine, viewing health and sickness in terms of the human body's harmonies and disharmonies. In an acupuncture treatment, acupuncture needles are inserted at specific points on the human body that would be appropriate for that particular condition or symptom. Acupuncture is a method of accessing and harmonising the human body's natural flow of energy in order to restore health.

CRITERION**Underlying NQF Registered Qualification**

Postgraduate Diploma in Acupuncture, NQF Level 8.

Experiential / Practical Experience / Experiential Learning

The AHPCSA will enter into discussions with the institution regarding the offering of an internship.

Competency Assessment / Board Examination

N/A

Designation RPL Statement

N/A

Designation competencies:

Not provided.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

40 CPD points in a two-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Registered Acupuncturist

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.ahpcsa.co.za.

Designation Title: Registered Therapeutic Massage Therapist

Short Description:

A registered Therapeutic Massage Therapist is a complementary healthcare therapist treating patients for a wide range of conditions in addition to primary health care and health maintenance. The nature of the techniques employed by the therapeutic massage therapist allows for beneficial treatment of a diverse range of conditions as they have structural, physiological, neurological and psychological influence on the human state.

CRITERION

Underlying NQF Registered Qualification

Diploma in Therapeutic Massage, NQF Level 6.

Experiential / Practical Experience / Experiential Learning

N/A

Competency Assessment / Board Examination

N/A

Designation RPL Statement

N/A

Designation competencies:

Not provided.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

40 CPD points in a two-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Registered Therapeutic Massage Therapist

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.ahpcsa.co.za.

Designation Title: Registered Therapeutic Reflexologist

Short Description:

A registered Therapeutic Reflexologist is a complementary healthcare therapist treating patients according to an ancient science and therapy, dealing with the principle that the body is mirrored through reflex areas on the feet, hands, ears and other parts of the body and these correspond to all organs, glands and parts of the body. By using the thumbs and fingers on the reflex areas the body is assisted to attain homeostasis, balance or normalisation of function and this in turn creates a change in the health and well-being of the patient. Therapeutic Reflexology is a non-invasive therapy.

CRITERION

Underlying NQF Registered Qualification

Diploma in Therapeutic Reflexology, NQF Level 6.

Experiential / Practical Experience / Experiential Learning

N/A

Competency Assessment / Board Examination

N/A

Designation RPL Statement

N/A

Designation competencies:

Not provided.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

40 CPD points in a two-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Registered Therapeutic Reflexologist

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.ahpcsa.co.za.

Designation Title: Registered Therapeutic Aromatherapist

Short Description:

A registered Therapeutic Aromatherapist is a complementary healthcare therapist treating patients according to a multifaceted, non-invasive system of treatment that uses aromatic plants extracts such as volatile essential oils and hydrosols, via a range of application modes, for therapeutic purposes, in order to facilitate the restoration of health applying scientific principles that fundamentally differentiates and identifies the practice of the discipline. The integration of holistic health principles however also forms an integral part of the philosophy of Therapeutic Aromatherapy.

CRITERION

Underlying NQF Registered Qualification

Diploma in Therapeutic Aromatherapy, NQF Level 6.

Experiential / Practical Experience / Experiential Learning

N/A

Competency Assessment / Board Examination

N/A

Designation RPL Statement

N/A

Designation competencies:

Not provided.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

40 CPD points in a two-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Registered Therapeutic Aromatherapist

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.ahpcs.co.za.

Designation Title: Registered Osteopath

Short Description:

A registered Osteopath is a complementary healthcare practitioner diagnosing and treating patients according to the belief that most diseases are related to problems in the musculoskeletal system and that structure and function of the body are inseparable. The musculoskeletal system is comprised of the nerves, muscles, and bones all of which are interconnected and form the body's structure.

CRITERION

Underlying NQF Registered Qualification

NQF Level 8 qualification in Osteopathy.

Experiential / Practical Experience / Experiential Learning

N/A

Competency Assessment / Board Examination

N/A

Designation RPL Statement

N/A

Designation competencies:

Not provided.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

40 CPD points in a two-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Registered Osteopath

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.ahpcs.co.za.

Designation Title: Registered Ayurveda Practitioner

Short Description:

A registered Ayurveda Practitioner is a complementary healthcare practitioner diagnosing and treating patients according to the principles of traditional healing system which began in India over 5000 years ago. "Ayurveda" is a Sanskrit word which derives from two roots: "vid" which means knowledge and "ayus" which means life cycle. Ayurveda is often referred to as the science of life and longevity. It is a complete system of medicine which advocates that all beings come from nature and are an integral part of the whole creation.

CRITERION

Underlying NQF Registered Qualification

NQF Level 8 qualification in Ayurveda.

Experiential / Practical Experience / Experiential Learning

N/A

Competency Assessment / Board Examination

N/A

Designation RPL Statement

N/A

Designation competencies:

Not provided.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

40 CPD points in a two-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Registered Ayurveda Practitioner

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.ahpcsa.co.za.

Designation Title: Registered Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Practitioner

Short Description:

A registered Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Practitioner is a complementary healthcare practitioner diagnosing and treating patients based on the philosophical approach of yin and yang and using a broad range of medicine practices based on a tradition of more than 2000 years including herbal medicine, massage (Tui Na), acupuncture and dietary therapy. Diagnosis includes an evaluation of symptoms indicating underlying functional disharmony by pulse diagnosis, inspection of the tongue, skin and eyes.

CRITERION**Underlying NQF Registered Qualification**

Bachelor of Complementary Medicine in Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture, NQF Level 8.

Experiential / Practical Experience / Experiential Learning

N/A

Competency Assessment / Board Examination

Board Examination.

Designation RPL Statement

N/A

Designation competencies:

Not provided.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

40 CPD points in a two-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Registered Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Practitioner

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.ahpcsa.co.za.

Designation Title: Registered Unani-Tibb Practitioner

Short Description:

Registered Unani-Tibb Practitioner equips clinical graduates with the skills to diagnose and treat patients using the Traditional Health philosophy and methods of Unani-Tibb. Such skills will be equivalent to international standards, and will enable graduates to meet the requirements to register with the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa (AHPCSA). To provide a foundation for continuous life-long learning in the profession and the skills to pursue research within the discipline.

CRITERION

Underlying NQF Registered Qualification

Postgraduate Diploma in Complementary Medicine in Unani-Tibb Medicine, NQF Level 8 .

Experiential / Practical Experience / Experiential Learning

N/A

Competency Assessment / Board Examination

Board examination.

Designation RPL Statement

N/A.

Designation competencies:

Not provided.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

40 CPD in a two-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Registered Unani-Tibb Practitioner

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.ahpcsa.co.za.

Designation Title: Registered Phytotherapist

Short Description:

A registered Phytotherapy Practitioner is a complementary healthcare practitioner diagnosing, compound, dispense and prescribe herbal medicines patients based on the field of Phytotherapy.

CRITERION

Underlying NQF Registered Qualification

Postgraduate Diploma in Phytotherapy or Bachelor of Phytotherapy or Bachelor of Complementary Medicine in Phytotherapy, NQF Level 8.

Experiential / Practical Experience / Experiential Learning

N/A

Competency Assessment / Board Examination

Board examination.

Designation RPL Statement

N/A

Designation competencies:

Not provided.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

40 CPD points in a two-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Registered Phytotherapist

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.ahpcsa.co.za.