



The Music Academy SA

The Academy for Contemporary, Jazz & Gospel Music of Southern Africa

8 Young Street, Strand, Western Cape Province, South Africa, 7140

Accreditation Information 2026

Dear School Principals, Music Educators, Parents and Students

We would like to take this opportunity to address the question “**Is The Music Academy SA, accredited?**” In this document we will answer this question and also clarify certain other aspects with regards to The Music Academy SA and this matter.

The first very important fact that we must clarify is that the courses, meaning the various grades as per instrument, falls under the category called “**SHORT LEARNING PROGRAMS**”. For this reason, The Music Academy SA is classified as a “**SHORT LEARNING PROGRAM PROVIDER**”.

Many short learning programs is also called “**SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**”. According to the South African law, with regards to accreditation of these types of programs and programs providers, there are certain aspects that we should address first and this will be answered in our “**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**”.

Once you have read these Q & A’s, we believe that the main question about accreditation would be answered. We therefore would request that you read our Q & A and should have any further questions please feel free to contact us directly.

With Musical Greetings

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The Music Academy SA is under the management of the Muzica de Contemp Educational Group (Mdc Group), and is registered as a NON PROFIT with the no: 285-265 NPO, at the Dep of Social development.



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Questions & Answers

QUESTION:

Is the courses(grades) offered by The Music Academy SA classified as short courses?

ANSWER:

Yes. All the graded examinations offered by The Music Academy falls under the category of short courses.

QUESTION:

What is a short learning program/short course?

ANSWER:

It is easier to answer this question by pointing out what a short learning program/short course is not. In South Africa any program of learning that is provided for or one of the qualifications sub frameworks and/or is at least 120 credits of study needs to be accredited and registered as a qualification. Where it is accredited depends on the level. All other courses of study are short learning programs\short courses.

Generally speaking if the study is going to take at least a year or less, it would classified as a short course. The purpose of a short learning program is to provide any person with new or upgraded knowledge or skill in one particular area. The aim is to improve or update the ability of the person to carry out a particular task or specialist skill. Some short courses are of a recreational focus (such as improvisation) and are aimed at developing skills which are for personal development reasons rather than related to career progression.

Since pupils generally complete a certain grade in less than a year, than YES our courses(grades) falls under a short course learning program.

QUESTION:

Are short learning programs registered and accredited?

ANSWER:

There is no mechanism within the South African regulatory environment for the registration or accreditation of short learning programs. When the NQF was first set up, it was intended that all short courses would be registered over time but there has never been capacity to do this.

In some unit standard based instances short courses that form part of the learning pathway for a full qualification were registered as a part qualification in their own right but these are few and far between and they have no better status than any other short course. Some short learning programs are recognized by professional associations or vendors - where this is the case it will be clearly indicated.



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Quality Councils (such as the Higher Education Quality Committee) require that institutions accredited by them, apply the same quality assurance arrangements that apply to full qualifications to their short courses and this is why it makes sense to do a short course/short learning programs through a registered and accredited provider. In short this means that The Music Academy SA is required by law to register with certain councils such as SAQA, Department of Higher Education, Department of Basic Education, UMALUSI and so on.

QUESTION:

Are The Music Academy SA registered with the required Departments & Councils?

ANSWER:

The Music Academy SA already started with these applications processes. Some councils require that registrations with certain councils must first be completed, before we can register with the particular council.

So YES and NO. Certain applications are still in the Initial phase and some are in a more advanced phase. Unfortunately with some of these councils, applications takes longer to be addressed as others. We are in the proses of addressing this issue with the Department of Basic Education and our aim is to get the Department to recognised The Music Academy SA in the meanwhile until all our registrations are completed. Again this process take times unfortunately.

QUESTION:

Are short learning programs credit bearing?

ANSWER:

This is an area of frequent confusion and miss communication. The short answer is "no" but there are important nuances. Credits are "pieces of learning" earned towards a qualification and therefore one only gets credits in a qualification. However, sometimes the work covered in a short learning programme matches the work required for part of a qualification and one could then get credit in to the qualification for the work done in the short learning programme.



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QUESTION:

Who recognises short learning programs or gives credit for them?

ANSWER:

Institutions like Universities and Colleges, make their own decisions in relation to the courses (and even qualifications) they will recognize for admission and for credit. Because accreditation of full qualifications follows a national standard process it is more likely that one institution will recognize the learning associated with a full qualification for credit in to their own qualification.

Some of these institutions will recognize the short learning programs offered by The Music Academy SA, because of the fact that The Music Academy SA has a history in South Africa and that we have proven that our courses(grades) are unique and that the learners that did follow our courses are well educated in the Contemporary, Jazz & Gospel Music field are we are recognized as an official graded examination system.

QUESTION:

What about the NQF level and short learning programs?

ANSWER:

This is another difficult area - sometimes you will be told the NQF level at which a program is being presented. This is a description of the complexity and depth of the content and does not mean the short learning program has been registered on that level on the NQF.

At this stage we can not clarify on what level our short learning courses(grades) will be registered with the NQF standards.

QUESTION:

What names are you allowed to use for the short learning programs?

ANSWER:

There is very little guidance in the law in this regard. Short Learning Programs do – from time to time – carry a similar name to that of a full qualification (such as certificate or diploma) and this is not a problem if the status (as a short learning program and not a full qualification) is absolutely clear.

All the courses offered by The Music Academy SA are indicated as Certificate bearing courses. Thus meaning after completing a certain course(grade) the candidate will receive a certificate for the completed course(grade).



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QUESTION:

What is an endorsement?

ANSWER:

If a short learning program or a qualification is endorsed by a professional association or any other entity it means that the association is willing to make it known that the quality and content of the program meets their standards. Sometimes that is all an endorsement is – a public confirmation that the program is supported. Sometimes an endorsement enables a student who successfully completes a program to achieve particular membership or credit with an association.

QUESTION:

Short learning programs and skills levies.

ANSWER:

The Music Academy SA is already registered with institutions such as HEQC which is the quality assurance authority for higher education.

Only when The Music Academy SA has been fully registered with all the required councils, our short courses/short learning programs will qualify for claims against the skills development levy program if properly recorded and accounted for in plans and reports.

QUESTION:

What recognitions should learners at this stage?

ANSWER:

Since The Music Academy SA is seen as one of the graded examination systems in South Africa at this stage, and the only examination system in Contemporary, Jazz & Gospel Music that is proudly South African, and that caters for the South African music educators without discrimination towards any other examination system, it is recommended that should a learner wish to follow this short course program(graded examinations) he/she must be allowed without prejudice towards them.

Currently various learners in the Western Cape Province are allowed to follow these courses(grades) as part of their highschool subjects. These learners receive practical lessons outside of school level and through private educators. These educators are then responsible to ensure that The Music Academy SA assess these learners and supply these assessments to the school as required and agreed between the school and The Music Academy SA.

These assessment marks form part of these learners' yearly and school marks and these marks appear on their school reports as a formal subject.



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QUESTION:

Does schools recognise learners for their achievements?

ANSWER:

Yes. If a learner complete their assessments at The Music Academy SA, and the marks they received during examinations places them either on The Roll of Honour(candidate that received 135 up to 139 out of the required 150 marks) or The Golden Roll of Honour(candidates that receive more than 140 out of the required 150 marks), then it's recommended that these learners receive some sort of recognition from the schools side for their achievements.

QUESTION:

Are there other examination systems that also falls under the short learning programs?

ANSWER:

Yes. One of these examination systems is UNISA - University of South Africa. This is clearly stated on the website that they fall under the short learning programs and they are short learning program provider.



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Currently The Music Academy SA, applications with the following councils has been launched and are in different phases of process. The Music Academy SA is also registered with various International Institutions already.



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

