National Institute of Social Development
Policy on Programme/ Curricula Designing

Policy Title: Policy on Programme/Curricula Designing

Policy Number: 13

Functional Area: Academic

Effective Date: 11.07.2024

Approving Authority: The Governing Council, National Institute of Social Development

Administrative Responsibility: GC, AAB, DG, ADG, Faculty Boards, Curriculum Development Committee, Heads of Departments

13.1. Rationale & Purpose:

This policy delineates the procedural guidelines and administrative protocols pertinent to curriculum development within the National Institute of Social Development (NISD). It underscores the significance of both major and minor revisions in aligning academic offerings with contemporary trends, benchmarking standards, and evolving qualification frameworks. The collaborative nature of curriculum development, involving all stakeholders, ensures relevance, quality, and responsiveness to societal and industry needs.

13.2. Scope:

The policy applies to academic staff members, administrative staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students involved in curriculum development activities at NISD.

13.3. Policy Statement:

13.3.1. Shared Responsibility: Curriculum design or revision is a collective endeavor, engaging all staff members to collaboratively develop and deliver relevant and effective programs.

13.3.2. Compliance: Curricula must adhere to the latest qualification frameworks, Subject Benchmark Statements, and professional standards, ensuring alignment with institutional vision, national goals, and regulatory guidelines.

13.3.3. Stakeholder Consideration: Program development should incorporate inputs from stakeholders, pass out student including labor market demands, emerging industry trends, technological advancements, and educational best practices.

13.3.4. Outcomes-Based Approach: Curriculum design should be outcomes-based and learner-centered, focusing on desired graduate attributes and program outcomes to guide content selection, learning activities, and assessment methods.

13.3.5. Integration of Work-based Learning: Programs should integrate work-based placements or experiential opportunities to provide real-world exposure and foster practical skills development.

13.3.6. Technological Integration: Curriculum design should leverage contemporary technological advancements, offering opportunities for students to engage with the latest tools and resources.

13.3.7. Administrative Clarity: Programs should clearly outline minimum enrollment qualifications, course prerequisites, and credit transfer options to facilitate student progression and mobility the process of adopting a curriculum

13.3.8. Alignment with Institutional Mission: Curricula should reflect and support the institutional mission and vision, Graduate profile, programmer out comes contributing to the holistic development of students and the advancement of societal goals.

13.4. Definitions:

13.4.1. New Programme: A program not previously offered or significantly modified in purpose, outcomes, or delivery mode.

13.4.2. Outcomes-Based Education: An educational approach driven by predetermined exit learning outcomes.

13.4.3. Study Programme: A structured set of learning experiences leading to a qualification, with recognized entry and exit points.

13.4.4. Learning Outcomes: Culminating demonstrations of significant learning achievements.

13.4.5. Credits: Assigned value to notional hours of learning, contributing to module/course/program qualification.

13.5. Titles of Related Policies, Procedures, Forms, Guidelines:

13.5.1. Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF)

13.5.2. NISD Curriculum Development Procedures

13.5.3. Learning Outcome Policy

13.5.4. Teaching and Learning Policy

13.5.5. Global standard on social work education & teaching by IASSW

This comprehensive policy framework underscores NISD's commitment to fostering curriculum development processes that are responsive, inclusive, and aligned with the institute's overarching goals and objectives. Through collaborative efforts and adherence to best practices, NISD aims to deliver high-quality academic programs that meet the diverse needs of students, industries, and society at large.