

## Common Descriptors of HD Programmes

<b>Programme Objectives</b>	<p>HD should provide students with industry/profession-specific knowledge and skills, together with the necessary language, IT, interpersonal and other generic skills for employment, further study and active citizenship. It should also cultivate a spirit of lifelong learning and develop the student's ability to learn how to learn.</p> <p>Specifically, HD will equip students with the necessary technical and professional knowledge and skills, initially at the para-professional level, via the blending of theoretical knowledge and practical application, to enable them to pursue a career in a specific field.</p>
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>A solid foundation of generic skills, including languages, IT, interpersonal communication, quantitative and analytical skills, and the ability to learn how to learn.</p> <p>An understanding of the theoretical knowledge and practical skills at the para-professional level of a certain discipline, and integration of theory with practice, so as to apply these principles more widely especially in an employment context.</p> <p>An ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study or employment; and to propose the solution.</p> <p>Skills of presenting and evaluating information, for planning and investigational purposes.</p> <p>A theoretical foundation upon which further study in the discipline at the degree level, or professional level, can be built.</p>

	<p>The ability to perform skilled tasks, requiring some discretion and judgment, and undertaking a supervisory role.</p> <p>An appreciation of the major socio-political, cultural and economic issues in the local, national, regional and international contexts.</p> <p>A strong sense of social responsibility and civic values, a passion in pursuing creativity and innovativeness, and spirit of lifelong learning.</p>
<b>Curriculum</b>	<p>At least 60% of the curriculum should consist of specialized contents (eg. learning related to concentrations, disciplines and professions, vocational skills, etc)</p> <p><i>* The above curriculum content requirement is only applicable to new programmes to be set up starting from 2010-11 academic year.</i></p>
<b>Minimum Entrance Requirements</b>	<p>HD programme should generally adopt the principle of “lenient entry stringent exit”.</p> <p>For a 2-year programme, the requirements are:</p> <p>(a) One A Level or an equivalent number of AS Level subjects; and  (i) 5 passes in HKCEE including English and Chinese; or  (ii) 3 passes in HKCEE plus level 2 or above in English and Chinese;</p> <p>(b) satisfactory completion of a pre-AD or an equivalent programme; or</p> <p>(c) mature students.</p> <p>For a 3-year programme, the requirements are:</p> <p>(a) 5 passes in HKCEE including English and Chinese; or</p> <p>(b) 3 passes in HKCEE plus level 2 or above in English and Chinese; or</p>

	<p>(c) satisfactory completion of Project Yi Jin or an equivalent programme; or</p> <p>(d) mature students.</p>
<b>Other Acceptable Equivalent Qualifications</b>	Applicants who possess other acceptable equivalent qualifications, including overseas and non-local qualifications, or other qualifications/experience deemed to be equivalent, are eligible to apply for admissions to the 2-year or 3-year HD programmes.
<b>Special Admission Quota</b>	Applicants falling short of the minimum entrance requirements or other acceptable equivalent qualifications can be admitted on special considerations but should not account for more than 5% of the total intake on a programme basis, and not more than 3% on an institutional basis.
<b>Quality Assurance</b>	<p>For self-accrediting institutions, HD programmes must undergo their own internal quality assurance mechanism as for their regular degree programmes.</p> <p>For non-self-accrediting institutions, their HD programmes should be validated by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic &amp; Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ).</p> <p>Institutions would be required to submit annual returns on quality-related matters to the HKCAAVQ or the Joint Quality Review Committee (JQRC).</p>
<b>Exit Qualifications</b>	<p>HD is a valuable standalone exit qualification for employment at the para-professional level.</p> <p>As an exit qualification for further studies, an HD award is normally equivalent to 50% of a 4-year university degree (North American model) or one-third of a 3-year university degree (British model).</p> <p>In other words, HD graduates can articulate to Year 3 of a 4-year university degree (North American model) or Year 2 of a 3-year university degree (British model).</p>

As an exit qualification for employment purpose, HD should generally be considered as equivalent to that of an AD.

HD qualification is benchmarked at Level 4 of the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework. Each level of the HKQF is characterized by the Generic Level Descriptors (GLD), which set out the generic learning outcomes of the qualifications located at that level.