
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**SPACE AND COST NORMS FOR BUILDINGS AND OTHER LAND
IMPROVEMENTS AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

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PREFACE

The first set of space and cost norms for the so-called Post Secondary Education (PSE) sector was determined by the former Department of National Education in 1982. It is set out in the manual SAPSE 101 titled *Nation-wide space and cost norms for buildings and land improvements other than buildings*. This manual included norms for Residential Universities, Non-residential Universities, Residential Technikons, Non-residential Technikons, Teachers' Training Colleges, Colleges of Nursing and Technical Colleges/Institutes. The norms were established after a thorough evaluation of similar systems in other countries. On the basis of this evaluation, an extensive study of all facets of South African PSE was made and norms applicable to the South African situation were established.

In the mid-1980s, a review of the space and cost norms was undertaken by a working group of the Universities and Technikons Advisory Council (AUT). The AUT accepted the proposals of the working group, and recommended to the Ministers of Education and of Finance that they be applied as national policy with effect from 1 January 1997. After approval by the two Ministers, the space and cost norms for universities and technikons were published in November 1996 by the Department of Education.

A new space reporting module has been introduced in 2007 as part of the higher education management information system (HEMIS). Because this module has amended the 1982 space classification and coding system, changes have had to be made to the space and cost norms approved in 1996. This manual incorporates all these changes.

The norms in this new manual will need to be updated and revised on a regular basis. Changes in, for example, the Classification of Educational Subject Matter (CESM), and the implementation of the new Higher Education Qualification Framework (HEQF) could require further changes to be made to the norms. The norms would also need to be reconsidered when sufficient space data has been accumulated on HEMIS.

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