

TVET COLLEGES: FOCUSED ON EMPLOYABILITY

Keith Loynes

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Colleges, formerly known as Further Education and Training (FET) Colleges or Technical Colleges, offer school-leavers a wealth of education and training opportunities.

With 50 public colleges operating on more than 264 campuses across South Africa, there is bound to be a campus near you.

Why choose a TVET College for further study?

At a time when work is difficult to find, it is critically important to be skilled in a vocation or a profession. TVET Colleges specialise in vocational education, which is focused on enhancing employability or opening up higher education learning pathways.

increasingly made available throughout South Africa and in particular in rural areas that were formerly not serviced.

No fewer than 16 new campuses in four provinces have been identified for construction or refurbishment. Construction is already at an advanced stage on three of the new campuses that will open for enrolment in 2016.

Can I study at a TVET College?

The minimum entry requirement for a beginner course at a TVET College is that the prospective student should have passed Grade 9 and is 16 years of age. Access to TVET College education and training opportunities is a major concern for the Department of Higher Education and Training. Accordingly, in recent years it has opened the National Student Financial Aid Scheme to students of TVET Colleges. An amount of R10 billion

the Higher Education Aids (HEAIDS) initiative has been launched at TVET College campuses across South Africa. The programme teaches students to prioritise their health so that they can pursue their education unencumbered by health issues.

What kinds of courses are offered by TVET Colleges?

TVET Colleges offer a wide range of courses that are designed to prepare students for the world of work and further study. The courses are formally approved by the relevant authorities and bodies and include the following programmes. In each programme there may be a variety of courses on offer. For the details of the courses on offer in a particular college you would need to contact a college conveniently located for you. Note that not all the colleges will offer all the possible courses. A list

National Certificate Vocational programmes:

1.	Civil Engineering and Building Construction
2.	Drawing Office Practice
3.	Education and Development
4.	Electrical Infrastructure Construction
5.	Engineering and Related Design
6.	Finance, Economics and Accounting
7.	Hospitality
8.	Information Technology and Computer Science
9.	Management
10.	Marketing
11.	Mechatronics
12.	Office Administration
13.	Primary Agriculture
14.	Primary Health
15.	Process Instrumentation
16.	Process Plant Operations
17.	Safety in Society
18.	Tourism
19.	Transport and Logistics

In addition to these programmes, a further set of programmes commonly referred to as the Report 191 programmes, are on offer.

These are:

PROGRAMME
National Certificate: N1: Engineering Studies
National Certificate: N2: Engineering Studies
National Certificate: N3: Engineering Studies

PROGRAMME
Non-National Certificate: Engineering Certificate of Competency
Non-National Certificate: Installation Rules
Non-National Certificate: Specialised Electrical Installation Codes
National Certificate: Multi-Disciplinary Drawing Office Practice



One of the new campuses under construction in August 2015

Employability is enhanced through the types of courses and programmes on offer as well as through preparation for artisanship, entrepreneurship, and work-based experience initiatives. In addition, the Ministry and Department of Higher Education and Training are highly responsive to the needs of TVET College students, both current and prospective. They ensure that TVET College education and training opportunities are

readily and currently available to support students across the Post School Education and Training system through the scheme. TVET College students who meet the requirements and qualify for bursaries are not required to repay the bursary on completion of their studies.

In addition, the Ministry and Department of Higher Education and Training have the personal health and welfare of college students as a central concern. Accordingly

of colleges and their contact information is available on the website www.dhet.gov.za and further helpful information may be found on www.tvetcolleges.co.za

