



BCONSULT

Occupational Certificate

SOFTWARE TESTER

NQF Level 5 | SAQA ID 119438 | 70 Points | 12 Months

Occupational Certificate:

Software Tester – NQF Level 5

SAQA ID: 119438 | Credits: 70 | Duration: 12-month | QCTO Learnership

1. Course Overview

The Occupational Certificate: Software Tester is a part-qualification of the Occupational Certificate: Software Engineer (NQF Level 6). It is designed to prepare learners to function as professional Software Testers, with the ability to assess the functionality of software applications against client specifications.

This programme equips learners with practical, theoretical, and workplace-based skills in software testing and debugging, enabling them to contribute effectively to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector. It addresses the industry's need for qualified testers while creating a pathway for career growth in software engineering and related ICT fields.

2. Learning Outcomes

On completion of this programme, learners will be able to:

- **Plan and prepare** to test and debug source code.
- **Test and debug** source code against client specifications.

KNOWLEDGE MODULES

Curriculum Code	Knowledge Module	NQF Level	Credits
251201-001-KM-01	Software Engineering	6	20
251201-001-KM-02	Fundamentals of Project Management in Relation to Software Engineering	5	5
251201-001-KM-03	Digital and Business Mathematics	5	15

PRACTICAL SKILLS MODULES

Curriculum Code	Practical Skills Module	NQF Level	Credits
251201-001-PM-04	Test or Debug Source Code to Ensure Client's needs are met	5	15

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WORKPLACE MODULES

Curriculum Code	Workplace Module	NQF Level	Credits
251201-001-WM-04	Software Testing	5	15

3. A Qualified Learner Will Be Able To:

- Explain the general principles of software and system testing methodologies.
- Read and interpret design specifications.
- Prepare programming environments for testing, including platforms and libraries.
- Communicate testing schedules and processes with stakeholders.
- Design functional and non-functional test specifications.
- Perform functional and non-functional tests.
- Record, report, and analyse testing activities.
- Produce comprehensive software and system testing reports.

Entry Requirements

- A minimum of **any** NQF Level 4 qualification (or equivalent).
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) may be applied for learners with relevant work experience in ICT or Systems Development.

4. International Comparability

The qualification compares favourably with international offerings:

New Zealand: Compared with the Diploma in Software Development (Level 6, 240 Credits). Similarities exist in testing components, target learners, and workplace relevance. The South African qualification differs in its modular design and credit structure, being a part-qualification with stronger focus on testing and debugging.

Australia: Compared with the Certificate IV in Information Technology (ICT40120). Overlaps exist in learner profiles and testing-related content. The South African qualification offers a more specialised focus on software testing, whereas testing in the Australian qualification is included as part of broader ICT units.

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5. Occupational Trainer – NQF Level 5 Certification

- Occupational Certificate: Software Tester (Part-Qualification)
- NQF Level 5 | 70 Credits
- Parent Qualification: Occupational Certificate: Software Engineer (NQF Level 6)
- Learners must also meet Foundational Learning Competence (FLC) requirements where applicable.

6. Potential Career Opportunities

Graduates of this qualification can pursue roles such as:

- Software Testers
- Quality Assurance Technicians
- Junior Test Analysts
- System Testers
- Entry-Level Software Engineers (with further study)

Opportunities exist within software development companies, ICT consultancies, corporate IT departments, and as independent service providers offering testing solutions.

7. Learning Options

This qualification is delivered through:

- **Knowledge Modules** (theory-based learning in software engineering, project management, and digital mathematics).
- **Practical Skills Modules** (hands-on testing and debugging).
- **Workplace Experience Modules** (structured workplace exposure in software testing environments).

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