

ABSCQ

PART 4

FIELD OF STUDY DEFINITIONS

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Introduction

Field of Study refers to the subject matter taught in the course of study leading to the award of a particular qualification. In developing the structure of the field of study classification the following criteria were used:

- theoretical content;
- purpose of learning;
- objects of interest;
- methods and techniques; and
- tools and equipment.

Theoretical content is that part of the subject matter which links facts together to explain other facts and predict outcomes.

The **purpose of learning** refers to the skills and knowledge gained from a course of study, that is, the application of the body of theory learnt.

The **objects of interest** are the things or phenomena studied.

The **methods and techniques** are the specific procedures for applying the knowledge gained in a course of study.

The **tools and equipment** are the instruments and implements used to apply the methods and techniques of a course of study.

The Field of Study Classification has a hierarchic structure consisting of the following three levels:

Broad Field
Narrow Field
Detailed Field

The broad fields are distinguished from each other on the basis of the theoretical content and the purpose of learning. The objects of interest are used to distinguish between the narrow fields in the same broad field. The detailed fields are distinguished from the other detailed fields in the same narrow field on the basis of the methods and techniques, and the tools and equipment.

The Classification consists of 9 broad fields, 46 narrow fields, and 187 detailed fields.

The 9 broad field categories are:

- 1 Business and Administration
- 2 Health
- 3 Education
- 4 Society and Culture
- 5 Natural and Physical Sciences
- 6 Engineering
- 7 Architecture and Building
- 8 Agriculture and Related Fields
- 9 Miscellaneous Fields

