

**MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATIONS POLICY**

**1. MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATIONS POLICY AS IN THE CONSTITUTION**

- 1.1.** Any person, who according to the Constitution and the Policies and/or By-laws of COUNCIL, qualifies for membership in Category A (Sexologist, Therapist of Sexuality and Counsellor of Sexuality) Category B (Expert of Sexuality in a related discipline), Category C (Sexology Student) or Category D (Associate), who has provided proof of his/her membership status and paid the applicable membership fee for the year, is admitted as a Member of the COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS in the specific category at the discretion of EXCO (Executive Committee).
- 1.2.** All Members must comply to the Constitution and all Policies & By-Laws including the Codes of Ethical Practice of the COUNCIL.
- 1.3.** The annual membership fee will be established by EXCO (Executive Committee).
- 1.4.** Membership can be terminated either way by giving one-month notice. EXCO (Executive Committee) may terminate a member's membership if a breach of the code of ethics has occurred.
- 1.5.** All members (categories A, B, C or D) may attend an AGM of the COUNCIL in person, by proxy, telephonic or via the internet, but not all members have voting rights.
- 1.6.** All Category A Members have voting rights during an AGM (in person, by proxy, telephonic or via the internet) regarding the approval or amendment of the Constitution which requires a 75% (seventy five percent) of the votes cast in favour.
- 1.7.** All Category A Members, together with all EXCO Members (including all Directors and all Category B Members on EXCO), have voting rights during an EXCO meeting (in person, by proxy, telephonic or via the internet) regarding the approval or amendment of Policies and/or By-laws which requires a majority of 1 (one).
- 1.8.** Only a Member who is a member in good standing is entitled to use the designations (Categories A and B) reserved for Members of the COUNCIL in terms of the Designation Policy / By-law / Act.
- 1.9.** Nothing in the Constitution or in the Policies and/or By-laws shall be construed as conferring upon an Expert of Sexuality in a related discipline (Category B), Categories C or D, Student Member, Associate or any other person any rights to use any of the designations reserved for Sexologist, Therapist of Sexuality and Counsellor of Sexuality in terms of the Designation Policy / By-law / Act or to do the professional work reserved for these designations.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

The following membership categories are applicable:

### **2.1. Membership (Category A)**

- 2.1.1.** "Category-A Member" means a Sexologist (S), Therapist of Sexuality (TS) and Counsellor of Sexuality (CS) who is registered with the COUNCIL and who is in good standing of the COUNCIL;
- 2.1.2.** Any professional who are practicing or lecturing or researching sexology and who qualifies according to the Constitution and the Policies and/or By-laws of the COUNCIL as a Sexologist (S), Therapist of Sexuality (TS) and Counsellor of Sexuality (CS) is welcome to apply for membership.
- 2.1.3.** Category A membership is more than enough professional status and legal protection for both the member and the public. However, it is highly recommended that some of the Category A members, who are also practising in a related discipline besides sexology (see Category B), is registered in both Category A as well as in Category B member with the CSHP. In this case membership of two professional bodies is also highly recommended. Examples: CSHP and HPCSA or CSHP and SACSSP.
- 2.1.4.** Category A members have full voting rights on AGM's, SGM's and for the approval or amendment of the Constitution.
- 2.1.5.** Category A Professional designation progression pathway  
(Listed from the lowest to the highest)
  - 2.1.5.1.** Counsellor of Sexuality (Professional 4-year bachelor's degree – NQF 8)
  - 2.1.5.2.** Therapist of Sexuality (Professional Master's Degree – NQF 9)
  - 2.1.5.3.** Sexologist (Professional Doctor's Degree – NQF 10)
- 2.1.6.** Professional Designation - Sexologist
  - 2.1.6.1.** A "Sexologist" is a professional specialist in holistic, integrative (bio-medical, psychological, sociological and cultural) sexuality. Sexologists must practice, lecture or doing research as a sexologist and they must be registered with the COUNCIL OF SEXUAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS.
  - 2.1.6.2.** Sexologists are the best equipped, of all professionals, to put the PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS OF COUNCIL (CONSTITUTION paragraph 4) into action in almost every way. Sexologists are also well-trained Therapists of Sexuality and Counsellors of Sexuality.
  - 2.1.6.3.** Sexologist are limited to professional work or treatment for which they have received proper training. Referral to an experienced colleague is always the best option when in doubt.
  - 2.1.6.4.** Criteria for obtaining the professional designation of Sexologist:  
The designation of Sexologist will be awarded by the COUNCIL based on:
    - i)** A PhD (or equivalent) in Sexology, on NQF 10-level, - the highest possible academic qualification in sexuality OR with a PhD (or equivalent) in a related discipline with additional post-graduate training in sexuality.
    - ii)** Proof of academic qualifications required.
    - iii)** Proof of experiential learning and practical experience of 200 hours practical work / internship required.

- iv) The passing of a COUNCIL Board Examination / Competency Assessment (Only if RPL or CPD is required by COUNCIL for a specific individual). CPD is in any case applicable to all sexologists.
  - v) Registration with the COUNCIL as a Sexologist.
- 2.1.6.5. Criteria for retaining the professional designation of sexologist:
- i) Practicing according to the Code of Conduct, Policies and/or By-Laws and the Constitution;
  - ii) Continuing Professional Development (CPD);
  - iii) Membership of the COUNCIL and the paying of yearly membership fees;
  - iv) Any additional requirements from COUNCIL as in the Policies and/or By-Laws that may be added.
- 2.1.6.6. Suspension or Removal from the Register:
- 2.1.6.7. Any sexologist's registration with the COUNCIL can be removed and/or reinstate by the COUNCIL according to the Constitution, Disciplinary Policy and By-Laws of the COUNCIL with the right of appeal.

**2.1.7. Professional Designation - Therapist of Sexuality**

- 2.1.7.1. A "Therapist of Sexuality" is a professional therapist in holistic, integrative (bio-medical, psychological, sociological and cultural) sexuality with a master's degree in sexology. Therapists of Sexuality must practice, lecture or doing research as a "Therapist of Sexuality" and they must be registered with the COUNCIL OF SEXUAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS.
- 2.1.7.2. Therapists of Sexuality are best equipped to enhance individual and family, sexual and relationship health, wellbeing and happiness at home and in the workplace. Practicing Therapists of Sexuality can make a huge contribution to improve the quality of life of all our people in almost every way and on all levels.
- 2.1.7.3. Therapists of Sexuality are limited to professional work or treatment for which they have received proper training. Referral to an experienced colleague is always the best option when in doubt.
- 2.1.7.4. Criteria for obtaining the professional designation of Therapist of Sexuality: The designation of Therapist of Sexuality will be awarded by the COUNCIL based on:
- (i) A Therapist of Sexuality requires a master's degree in Sexology on NQF 9 – level.
  - (ii) Proof of academic qualifications required.
  - (iii) Proof of experiential learning and practical experience of 100 hours practical work / internship.
  - (iv) The passing of a COUNCIL Board Examination / Competency Assessment (Only if RPL or CPD is required by COUNCIL for a specific individual). CPD is in any case applicable to all Therapists of Sexuality.
  - (v) Registration with the COUNCIL as a Therapist of Sexuality.
- 2.1.7.5. Criteria for retaining the professional designation of a Therapist of Sexuality:
- i) Practicing according to the Code of Conduct, Policies and/or By-Laws and the Constitution;

- ii) Continuing Professional Development (CPD);
  - iii) Membership of the COUNCIL and the paying of yearly membership fees;
  - iv) Any additional requirements from COUNCIL as in the Policies and/or By-Laws that may be added.
- 2.1.7.6. Suspension or Removal from the Register:
- 2.1.7.7. Any Therapist of Sexuality's registration with the COUNCIL can be removed and/or reinstate by the COUNCIL according to the Constitution, Disciplinary Policy and By-Laws of the COUNCIL with the right of appeal.

**2.1.8. Professional Designation - Counsellor of Sexuality**

- 2.1.8.1. A "Counsellor of Sexuality" is a professional counsellor in holistic, integrative (bio-medical, psychological, sociological and cultural) sexuality with a bachelor's degree in sexology. Counsellors of Sexuality must practice, lecture or doing research as a "Counsellor of Sexuality" and they must be registered with the COUNCIL OF SEXUAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS.
- 2.1.8.2. Counsellors of Sexuality are well-equipped to enhance individual and family sexual- and relationship health, wellbeing and happiness at home and in the workplace. Practicing Counsellors of Sexuality can make a huge contribution to improve the quality of life of all our people in almost every way and on all levels.
- 2.1.8.3. Counsellors of Sexuality are limited to professional work or counselling for which they have received proper training. Referral to an experienced colleague is always the best option when in doubt.
- 2.1.8.4. Criteria for obtaining the professional designation of Counsellor of Sexuality: The designation of Counsellor of Sexuality will be awarded by the COUNCIL based on:
- (i) A Counsellor of Sexuality requires a 4-year bachelor's degree in Sexology on NQF 8 – level.
  - (ii) Proof of academic qualifications required.
  - (iii) Proof of experiential learning and practical experience of 100 hours practical work / internship required.
  - (iv) The passing of a COUNCIL Board Examination / Competency Assessment (Only if RPL or CPD is required by COUNCIL for a specific individual). CPD is in any case applicable to all Counsellors of Sexuality.
  - (v) Registration with the COUNCIL as a Counsellor of Sexuality.
- 2.1.8.5. Criteria for retaining the professional designation of a Counsellor of Sexuality:
- 2.1.8.6. Practicing according to the Code of Conduct, Policies and/or By-Laws and the Constitution;
- 2.1.8.7. Continuing Professional Development (CPD);
- 2.1.8.8. Membership of the COUNCIL and the paying of yearly membership fees;
- 2.1.8.9. Any additional requirements from COUNCIL as in the Policies and/or By-Laws that may be added.
- 2.1.8.10. Suspension or Removal from the Register:

2.1.8.11. Any Counsellor of Sexuality's registration with the COUNCIL can be removed and/or reinstate by the COUNCIL according to the Constitution, Disciplinary Policy and By-Laws of the COUNCIL with the right of appeal.

## **2.2. Membership (Category B)**

**2.2.1.** "Category B Member" means a professional specialist in sexuality or Expert in Sexuality (E), practicing in a professional career related to sexology, and who is registered with its own related professional body, as well as with the COUNCIL for Sexual Health Professions and who is in good standing of the COUNCIL;

**2.2.2.** Any professional who has an academic/professional track record as an expert in human sexuality in a related discipline and who qualifies according to the Constitution and the Policies and/or By-laws of the COUNCIL is welcome to apply for membership. Examples: medical doctors (EM), nurses (EN), psychologists (EP), social workers (ESW), anthropologists (EA), ministers (ER), teachers (ET), lawyers (EL), gender studies specialists (EGS) and other related professionals (EO). The abbreviation "E" means Expert of Sexuality.

**2.2.3.** Membership of two professional bodies simultaneously, with two different professional codes of conduct, is highly recommended where applicable. It gives a) more professional status and professional demarcation, b) adequate legal professional protection to the member and c) much better legal protection of the public from professional abuse or misconduct. Examples: HPCSA and CSHP or SACSSP and CSHP.

**2.2.4.** Category B members have voting rights at the AGM and they may be elected on EXCO (Executive Committee). The only limitation of category B members is that they cannot vote for the approval or amendment of the Constitution. Only Category B members who are elected on EXCO (Executive Committee), can vote for the approval or amendment of Policies and/or By-laws.

**2.2.5.** Professional Designation: Expert of Sexuality

## **2.3. Membership (Category C)**

**2.3.1.** "Category C member" means a postgraduate (PG) or undergraduate (UG) student in sexology, registered at the Academy of Sexology International, (or at any other Higher Education Institution which is approved by COUNCIL to do sexology training) and who is in good standing as a student with the Academy and with the COUNCIL;

**2.3.2.** All registered student members have the right to attend the AGM and actively take part to give effect to the Constitution, the Policies and the By-Laws of the COUNCIL.

**2.3.3.** After the successful completion of 50% of the BS35, or MS35, all students must do at least 100 hours of practical internship under the supervision of the COUNCIL before they can practice. Therefore, registration as a Category-C Student Member with the COUNCIL is compulsory for all students in sexology.

**2.3.4.** Postgraduate students (MS35) may apply to register as a Category A Member - Counsellor of Sexuality after the successful completion of 50% (fifty percent) of the MS35 curriculum and proof of at least 100 hours of practical internship.

**2.3.5.** Undergraduate students (BS35) may apply to register as a Category A Member - Counsellor of Sexuality, only after the successful completion of 100% (hundred percent) of the MS35 curriculum and proof of at least 100 hours of practical internship.

**2.3.6.** Nothing in this Constitution or in the Policies and/or By-laws shall be construed as conferring upon a student member (Category C) any rights to use any of the designations reserved for Sexologist, Therapist of Sexuality and Counsellor of Sexuality in terms of the Designation Policy / By-law / Act or to do the professional work reserved for these designations.

#### **2.4. Membership (Category D)**

**2.5.** "Category D member" means any Associate (person, body, institute, organization, stakeholder, partner, company or business) who wants to associate with the COUNCIL, who can add value to the Constitution, Policies and/or By-laws, who is in good standing with the COUNCIL and who has been granted associateship of the COUNCIL;

### **3. GOOD STANDING OF ALL MEMBERS**

**3.1.** "Good Standing" in relation to a Member means:

**3.1.1.** that the name of the Member is on the register of Members ("the Register") and that he or she has not been suspended from membership;

**3.1.2.** that the Member has complied with the CPD requirements;

**3.1.3.** that there are no proceedings to remove the name of the Member from the Register or to suspend him or her from membership; and

**3.1.4.** that the Member is up to date with all amounts owed by him or her to the COUNCIL;