

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
College of Professional and Continuing Education
Legislative Council Panel on Education
Special meeting on 11 January 2013

Introduction

1. The College of Professional and Continuing Education (CPCE) is the self-financing arm of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), overseeing the Hong Kong Community College (HKCC) and the School of Professional Education and Executive Development (SPEED), empowered to offer programmes leading to Associate Degree, High Diploma and Bachelor Degree awards.
2. CPCE follows closely the QA system of PolyU. As with all PolyU award-bearing programmes, the planning and implementation approval of HKCC and SPEED programmes lies with PolyU Senate. Moreover, both HKCC and SPEED undertake annual programme reviews, and obtain feedback from various stakeholders, including students, employers, partners, etc.
3. HKCC and SPEED also place much emphasis on the whole person development of students. The two state-of-the-art purpose-built campuses are equipped with sports and other facilities such as medical clinic, performing arts studio, cafeteria, convenience store, etc. A wide range of co-curricular activities are organized for students. As an example, over 300 activities with more than 20,000 places are provided for HKCC students annually, including activities held in the mainland and overseas.
4. External input is a crucial element in the CPCE QA system. Channels for external input include
 - a. CPCE Advisory Committee with external members from both academic and industrial sectors
 - b. Appointment of external Academic Advisors on a broad discipline basis
 - c. External examiners/advisors for selected individual programmes,
 - d. External members on programme validation panels
 - e. Accreditation by professional bodies, etc.
5. Apart from the above-mentioned external input, CPCE is also subject to regular QA audits by external bodies -- JQRC (Joint Quality Review Committee) for sub-degree programmes under HKCC, and the QAC (Quality Assurance Council) for degree programmes under SPEED.

6. CPCE is presently one of the largest providers of self-financing tertiary education with over 10,000 full-time students. This is a clear sign of the confidence shown by students and parents in CPCE.
7. In the following sections, a concise description of current CPCE “student intake and admission” QA procedures is outlined. HKCC admissions in 2012 are also reviewed, and indicators on the prospects for our graduates are then presented.

Planned Student Numbers

8. CPCE has clear protocols regarding student intake numbers, these are summarised below.
9. CPCE Senior Management deliberates on its strategic direction each year. The planned student number for the following triennium is one of the main issues considered. CPCE Senior Management undertakes a careful evaluation of staffing resources, facilities capacity, programme validation results, market demand and competition during their deliberations on ‘planned student numbers’ for individual programmes/schemes for the next three years.
10. The aggregated numbers are then presented to the CPCE College Council, the highest governing body, in February for approval for budgetary purposes.
11. Following Council approval of student numbers, HKCC and SPEED fine-tune their planned student number for the coming year and include them in the Business Plan. In May, the CPCE College Board (formerly known as Academic Board, the academic quality assurance body in the College) considers and approves, or otherwise, the Unit Business Plans, including the intake numbers for each programme for that year. Subsequent significant changes to these numbers require the approval of the Dean of CPCE, who is the chairman of the College Board delegated by PolyU Senate to oversee academic quality assurance.

HKCC Admissions in 2012/13 Academic Year

12. In 2012/13, the year of the double cohorts, CPCE and HKCC took note of the need to offer more self-financed sub-degree places to HKALE and HKDSE candidates subject to our capacity constraints.
13. In September 2011, the Academic Board discussed the 2012/13 HKCC preliminary planned student intake number, and concurred on an indicative planned sub-degree student intake number of between 4,400 and 4,600. This is not much larger than the 2011/12 actual student intake number of 4,379. In May 2012, Academic Board approval was given for a

planned student intake number of 4,500 for HKCC, with the understanding that HKCC might marginally recruit above this figure. The actual enrollment for HKCC for 2012/13 was very close to this approved figure – less than 5% above the target.

14. In preparation for the 2012/13 academic year, HKCC recruited additional full-time teaching staff, thereby achieving a student staff ratio of 25.9, down from 26.4 in 2011/12. All classes are held on the two HKCC campuses, with measures undertaken in advance to enhance campus facilities. Examples include the upgrading of the campus Wi-Fi system and internet access, additional library resources as well as more computers/printers/copiers for students' use.
15. Discussions were held with student representatives, after the commencement of the 2012/13 academic year, to collect their feedback on various matters. Issues discussed included the adequacy of facilities and support, with positive feedback received.

Prospects for CPCE Graduates

16. The prospects for our graduates are good in terms of both further studies and career development.
17. The high articulation rate achieved by HKCC sub-degree graduates on to undergraduate programmes is important evidence. Since HKCC's establishment, over 11,300 HKCC graduates have articulated on to bachelor's degree programmes. The articulation rate – averaging 77.9% in the period from 2003 to 2012 – ranks among the highest in Hong Kong. In 2012, the articulation rate reached 83%, with over 2,300 students moving on to study on degree programmes.
18. In the case of 2012 HKCC graduates in employment, nearly 50% reported two or more job offers.
19. Exit survey data for SPEED full and part-time graduates in 2012 indicates that over 80% were either working full-time or pursuing further studies. For full-time graduates in employment, an average monthly salary of around HK\$11,000 was reported, with 67% receiving two or more job offers.
20. In the case of SPEED full-time graduates pursuing further studies, some 93% enrolled on postgraduate degree programmes.

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