

Applied Learning (Career-oriented Studies)

Introduction

The consultation report *Action for the Future – Career-oriented Studies and the New Senior Secondary Academic Structure for Special Schools* published in August 2006 summarises the concerns and feedback from various stakeholders and charts the way forward for the implementation of Career-oriented Studies.

A new name '**Applied Learning**' (應用學習) will be used as a general term for all Career-oriented Studies courses, starting from the 2006-08 cohort of piloting.

What is Applied Learning?

Applied Learning (ApL) aims at enabling students to understand fundamental theories and concepts through application and practice, and to develop their generic skills in authentic context. The design principle of ApL courses is the same as that of other school subjects, with equal emphasis on the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes.

What is the position of ApL in the new senior secondary curriculum?

ApL is an essential component of the new senior secondary (NSS) curriculum. In addition to the core subjects of Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics and Liberal Studies, students may choose up to three electives including ApL courses according to their interests, aspirations and aptitudes.

What will students learn in ApL?

Students will be prepared for further studies and/or for work as well as for lifelong learning through the development of foundation skills, thinking skills, people skills, values & attitudes and career-related competencies which will be included in ApL courses in the six areas of studies: (1) Applied Science; (2) Business, Management and Law; (3) Creative Studies; (4) Engineering and Production; (5) Media and Communication; and (6) Services.



What kind of recognition will students acquire?

There will be three levels of performance in ApL courses: 'unattained,' 'attainment' and 'attainment with distinction'. The assessments will be carried out by the course teachers, and in some cases will be conducted within the schools. Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority will moderate the assessments to ensure consistency and comparability with the NSS subjects in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE).

The performance of students in ApL courses will be credited to both HKDSE and Qualifications Framework.

What support will be provided to students and schools to facilitate the implementation of ApL?

To enable students to benefit fully from the diverse learning opportunities, career guidance on ApL courses and progressive pathways will be provided for students as an integral part of the NSS curriculum. Guidance and advice can be offered through career talks, structured visits, workplace-related experiences and 'taster' programmes.

Professional development programmes will be planned for principals, careers teachers, teachers, tertiary institution teachers and practitioners to prepare them for the implementation of ApL.

Resources will be available to support the curriculum diversification and the implementation of ApL. The guiding principle is that students should not, for financial reasons, be deterred from choosing any programme in senior secondary which matches their interests, aspirations and aptitudes.



The Piloting

To inform the future planning and implementation of ApL, pilots have been carried out since 2003.

The Government has reserved additional funding to support the piloting of ApL courses. At the piloting stage, students

have to pay 18% of the course fee. However, students with financial difficulty, i.e. those who are currently the recipients of the Senior Secondary Fee Remission Scheme or the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme, can apply for fee assistance.

ApL Courses

Areas of Studies	Examples of ApL Courses
Applied Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Foundation in Chinese Medicine ➤ Sports Coaching and Management
Business, Management and Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Marketing in Global Trade ➤ Practical Accounting for Small and Medium Enterprises ➤ The Essence of Law
Creative Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fashion and Image Design ➤ Introduction to Theatre Arts
Engineering and Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Application Development for Mobile Devices ➤ Automotive Technology in Practice
Media and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Directing and Filming for News Documentary ➤ Radio Host Broadcasting Skills
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fundamental Cosmetology ➤ Hotel Operations ➤ Western Cuisine

For further information of ApL, please visit the following website: <http://www.emb.gov.hk/apl/>

