

- ◆ The second feature of the academic identity will be strategic growth of the postgraduate profile through niche areas of research in selected Areas of Collaborative Academic Excellence (ACAEs) cutting across Faculties and Departments to incubate new academic areas aimed at:
  - Creating an environment conducive to collaboration, creativity, and critical engagement. This will entail the adoption of a workload model and development of infrastructure for the development of research.
  - Providing a focus for the growth of postgraduate student enrolment.
  - Achieving excellence in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research.
  - Engaging with emerging fields of knowledge and scholarship.
  - Responding to needs linked to eThekweni's growth and development opportunities and the imperatives of the National Development Plan.
  - Strengthening our ties with the social, economic, political, and cultural communities around us.

This academic identity is implemented through a University framework outlined in the Senate approved document "The Academic Identity of Mangosuthu University of Technology: Concept Document" which outlines the University's teaching and learning philosophy and the desired attributes of MUT graduates. The key attributes of a MUT graduate are summarised as:

- ◆ Having a sound disciplinary knowledge, being intellectually curious and able to see learning as a lifelong process.
- ◆ Being adaptable, innovative and able to apply knowledge to solve problems.
- ◆ Having good basic skills and competencies, including the ability to communicate effectively in English.
- ◆ Being employable and entrepreneurial.
- ◆ Being a team player who respects others, being socially and environmentally responsible, and can lead with integrity.

### **Programme and Qualification Mix structure**

This academic identity will be underpinned by a Programme and

Qualification Mix that has a pyramid structure in terms of student enrolment. It is broad at the base with enrolments for the Diploma and thins successively with enrolments for the Advanced Diploma, the Postgraduate Diploma, and Masters and Doctoral qualifications.

### **MUT as a research-informed University of Technology**

This academic identity of MUT calls for a special focus of the research function with a particular agenda aimed at strengthening the academic identity as well as providing scope for the broader focus of pursuing scholarly activities and knowledge for its own sake. The research function is fundamental for all universities in the creation of knowledge and its dissemination.

Research always influences both the content and teaching of courses, but in different ways, depending on institutional arrangement and prioritisation. The agenda of being a research-informed University of Technology will be strengthened through the following institutional arrangement. Firstly, the professions, business and industry will inform teaching so that applied research and industry exposure are critical for learning and student experience.

Secondly, the curriculum will be work-integrated to provide experiential learning and exposure to professional practice. This arrangement will ensure that learning is research-inspired and integrated. Therefore, for MUT, the research function will seek to inform teaching rather than to shape it.

### **MUT in the Post School Education and Training (PSET) System**

The differentiated role of MUT within the PSET System as a research-informed university will contribute to the national technology and innovation agenda. MUT enrolment and programme design process will therefore be sensitive to the important role of the TVET sector as a change agent for social, economic, technological and national development through its role of directly influencing the quality of the workforce through the provision of skills and the social integration of disadvantaged groups into work and the labour market. Our PQM will therefore, where possible, provide articulation pathways for the TVET sector through the provision of Higher Certificate and Advanced Higher Certificate qualifications.