

General Education Qualifications Framework

Article 1. Essence and Purpose of Elaboration

1. General Education Qualifications Framework is the part of National Qualifications Framework, providing for systematised qualifications of the basic cycle of general education and general secondary education.

2. The qualification of the basic cycle of general education is the learning outcome, attained through successful accomplishment of primary and basic cycle programmes of general education, what is certified by a document, recognised by the state.

3. The qualification of general secondary education is the learning outcome, attained through successful accomplishment of the programmes of all three cycles of general education, what is certified by a document, recognised by the state.

4. The general education qualifications framework aims at:

a) Describing the interrelation between the competences of general education and competences of various cycles of educational system of the country;

b) Supporting general education quality assurance internal and external systems and enhancement of the quality of general education;

c) Ensuring the compatibility and comparability at the international level for the purpose of simplification of the process of acquiring education and recognition of qualifications;

d) Promoting lifelong learning.

Article 2. Description of the System of General Education

1. General education starts at the age of 5. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia may allow exemptions from this rule.

2. General secondary education comprises three cycles: primary (6 years), basic (3 years) and secondary (3 years). Primary and basic cycles of general education are mandatory. It is inadmissible to leave a student outside the system of general education without completion of the basic cycle.

3. General education may be acquired through external studies. A document certifying the acquisition of general acquisition through external studies is equalised to a document of general education issued by a general education institution.

4. General education may also be acquired through alternative means, commensurate with the procedure, established by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, with due consideration of age specificity of students and working and family conditions.

5. A general education institution may be both legal entity of public and private law. An institution has to be authorised in order to acquire the status of a general education institution and the right to issue educational documents recognised by the state.

6. General education is fully funded by the state commensurate with the procedure, established by law, through a voucher compatible with fiscal normative calculated per student.

7. The state develops national study plan for the attainment of main objectives of the state policy in general education, which provides for mandatory disciplines and a group of disciplines according to the cycle of general education, hours according to disciplines, their distribution and correlation, mandatory and maximum workload, minimum number of hours necessary for teaching

disciplines and groups of disciplines, conditions and recommendations for arrangement of the learning environment.

8. Observance of the national study plan is mandatory for every general education institution. Teaching of disciplines, envisaged by national and school study plans should be academic, impartial, neutral and pluralistic.

10. A person having a document, certifying the completion of the basic cycle of general education, is entitled to continue his/her studies at the next cycle of general education on an entire territory of Georgia.

11. A student is entitled to move from one school to another within the same cycle of general education, commensurate with the procedure, established by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

12. A person having a document certifying completion of general secondary education is entitled to enter a higher education institution.

13. Following completion of the basic cycle a person is also entitled to enrol for a vocational educational programme.

Article 3. Qualifications' Descriptor

1. The descriptor of the qualifications of general education defines learning outcomes of the basic cycle of general education and general secondary education through six criteria:

- a) Knowledge and understanding;
- b) Applying knowledge;
- c) Making judgments;
- d) Communication skills;
- e) Learning skills;
- f) Values.

2. The qualifications' descriptor differentiates between the qualifications of the basic cycle of general education and general secondary education and ensures a logical link between them.

3. The cycles of general education are described chronologically according to learning outcomes. Additional learning outcomes of every next cycle are attained on the basis of the learning outcomes of the previous cycle.

4. The learning outcomes of the basic cycle of general education are as follows:

- a) Knowledge and understanding – basic knowledge of key disciplines, understanding of the steps necessary for carrying out routine simple tasks;
- b) Applying knowledge practice – ability to apply cognitive and practical skills for carrying out routine simple tasks;
- c) Making Judgements – ability to understand routine simple problems with the help of practical and cognitive skills and establish links between them;
- d) Communication skills – ability to communicate both orally and in writing on routine simple matters, search for necessary information using information technologies, also the ability to understand and communicate some ideas in a foreign language;
- e) Learning skills - ability to understand the importance of lifelong learning and make choice on further studies;
- f) Values – ability to respect national and common values; ability to understand personal rights and obligations to family and society;

5. A holder of general education qualification should meet the following criteria:

- a) Knowledge and understanding – knowledge of general facts, principles, processes and concepts, characteristic for key disciplines; understanding steps necessary for carrying out complicated tasks;
- b) Applying Knowledge – ability to apply a wide range of cognitive and practical skills, evaluate different approaches for carrying out tasks, select adequate methods, tools and materials;
- c) Making Judgements – ability to use, evaluate and analyse known sources of information for the solution of problems, arising in different environment;
- d) Communication skills – ability to communicate both orally and in writing in different environment on general matters, to use efficiently information and communication technologies, use a foreign language in practice;
- e) Learning skills – ability to assume responsibility over own learning within the context of predetermined tasks;
- f) Values – ability to act in accordance with common values in different environment.