

**DECREE OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA N 978-N OF JUNE 30,
2011**

**ON THE APPROVAL OF THE NEW STATUTE ON STATE
ACCREDITATION OF TERTIARY LEVEL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR
ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AND THE
REPEAL OF THE RA GOVERNMENT DECREE N 372 OF JULY 7, 2000**

Pursuant to Part 2 of Article 42 of the Law on Education of the Republic of Armenia, Part 7 of Article 15 of the Law on Primary Vocational (Handicraft) and Secondary Vocational Education and Part 1 of Article 21 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Higher and Postgraduate Professional Education, the Government of the Republic of Armenia hereby *decides to*:

1. Approve the Statute on State Accreditation of Tertiary Level Institutions and their Academic Programmes in the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “Accreditation Statute”) as set forth in the Appendix.
2. Repeal the Decree on the Approval of the Procedure for Licensing Educational Activities in the Republic of Armenia and Accreditation Statute, approved by the RA Government Decree N 372 of July 7, 2000.
3. This Decree shall enter into force on the day following its official publication.

**Prime Minister of the Republic of
Armenia**

T. Sargsyan

July 20, 2011

Yerevan

STATUTE

**ON STATE ACCREDITATION OF TERTIARY LEVEL INSTITUTIONS AND
THEIR ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. This Statute establishes the procedure for the state accreditation of tertiary level institutions (hereinafter referred to as “TLIs”, “education institutions”) that offer primary vocational (handicraft), secondary vocational and higher academic programmes (hereinafter referred to as “APs”) in the Republic of Armenia, irrespective of their departmental subordination and organisational-legal form.

(Clause 1 supplemented by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

2. The state accreditation (hereinafter referred to as “accreditation”) shall comprise the following types:
 - 1) institutional accreditation;
 - 2) academic programme accreditation (hereinafter referred to as “programme accreditation”).

(Clause 2 supplemented, changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

3. Institutional accreditation shall be a cyclic mandatory process for all education institutions within the RA territory.

(Clause 3 changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

3.1. *(This Clause repealed by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)*

4. Programme accreditation shall be a voluntary process, conducted only in the case of a positive result of the institutional accreditation, except for the medical APs.

(Clause 4 edited by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

5. Branches of an education institution shall undergo institutional and programme accreditation under the general procedure, as part of the parent institution, with a

separate schedule and upon application by the institution operating the branch. The state accreditation certificate for a branch is issued to the institution operating the branch.

(Clause 5 edited by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

6. The education institutions' institutional and programme accreditation processes shall be organised and carried out by the "National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance" foundation (hereinafter referred to as "ANQA").

(Clause 6 changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

II. INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

(Title changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

7. To undergo institutional accreditation, an education institution shall:
 - 1) submit an application according to the templates developed by ANQA and approved by the Board of Trustees;
 - 2) have a license to conduct educational activities;
 - 3) complete ANQA's online questionnaire (web.survey.anqa.am).

(Clause 7 changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

8. Institutional accreditation is carried out through three consecutive stages:
 - 1) *First stage*: an education institutions' internal evaluation of institutional capacities (hereinafter referred to as "self-evaluation") in accordance with the relevant template developed by ANQA and approved by the Board of Trustees.
 - 2) *Second stage*: the expert panel's external review of education institutions' self-evaluation, education and quality assurance processes in line with the legal requirements applicable to the relevant type of education institution, state academic standards, as well as institutional accreditation criteria and standards approved by the RA Government.
 - 3) *Third stage*: based on the results of the self-evaluation and external review, ANQA's Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Accreditation Committee"), whose procedure for formation, composition, and operation is approved by ANQA's Board of Trustees, makes one of the following decisions:
 - a) to grant an institutional accreditation;
 - b) to grant an institutional accreditation with conditions;
 - c) to reject institutional accreditation.

(Clause 8 changed, supplemented by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, changed, edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, edited by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

9. The acceptance of the application and the self-evaluation of the education institution, external review, and decision-making shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements of this Statute.

10. For institutional accreditation purposes, education institutions may apply to ANQA or other quality assurance agencies that are either registered in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) or are full members of European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). Education institutions that offer academic programmes in the countries outside the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), or TLI branches from these countries located in the Republic of Armenia, may apply to recognised accreditation agencies, the list of which is approved by the head (hereinafter referred to as “Minister”) of the authorised body (hereinafter referred to as the “Ministry”). Education institutions shall notify ANQA of the launch of the accreditation process by foreign agencies within five calendar days. The results of institutional accreditation shall enter into the State Accreditation Register. In case of the failure to notify ANQA, the results of institutional accreditation are not registered in the State Accreditation Register. The education institutions' institutional capacities shall be considered accredited upon registration in the State Accreditation Register.

(Clause 10 edited by 1907-N of December 15, 2011, changed, edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

11. ANQA shall submit the Accreditation Committee's decision, accreditation certificate and supplement template to the Ministry for the Minister's approval. In case of a procedural infringement of the accreditation process, the documents are returned to ANQA for reconsideration. In case of the lack of a procedural infringement, within twenty working days, the accreditation certificate shall be approved by the Minister and submitted to ANQA for a relevant record in the State Accreditation Register. ANQA shall, within one working day, make a relevant entry into the State Accreditation Register and properly hand over the accreditation certificate to a TLI upon signature in the Register. A TLI's institutional capacities shall be considered accredited upon the registration in the State Accreditation Register. ANQA shall publish the decision on institutional accreditation on its website.

(Clause 11 changed by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, changed, edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, edited by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

12. Institutional accreditation shall be granted to the TLIs:

1) for a period of six years, if shortcomings are not mentioned in the expert panel report, the credible award of qualifications is ensured, there are examples of development, and the governance system ensures the implementation of enhancements;

2) for a period of four years, if the shortcomings identified in the expert report do not significantly impact the credible award of qualifications, there are sufficient grounds for enhancements that can be implemented within these years.

Within two months after the publication of the decision to grant four-year accreditation, an education institution shall submit to ANQA the follow-up plan and relevant schedule mentioned in the expert panel report.

3) for a period of four years with conditions, if the shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report may impact the credible award of qualifications, but it is realistic to eliminate them and implement enhancements within two years.

(Clause 12 changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, edited by N 1397-N of December 11, 2014 and N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

12.1. The accredited TLI is obliged to conduct internal institutional evaluation every two years and present the results to ANQA.

(Clause 12.1 supplemented by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, N 1397-N of December 11, 2014 and N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

12.2. ***(This Clause repealed by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)***

12.3. After education institutions with conditional institutional accreditation present the results of the internal evaluation to ANQA, the expert panel shall conduct a two-day visit to the institution within one month and submit an expert panel report to ANQA.

(Clause 12.3 supplemented by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

12.4. Considering the results of the institutional internal evaluation and the expert panel report submitted by the TLI with conditional institutional accreditation, the Accreditation Committee shall make one of the following decisions:

- a. extend the validity of accreditation for another two years if the requirements of the Accreditation Committee's decision are met within the specified period;
- b. declare accreditation invalid if the requirements of the Accreditation Committee's decision are not met within the specified period.

(Clause 12.4 supplemented by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, N 301-N of March 19, 2014, edited by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

12.5. ***(This Clause repealed by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)***

12.6. ANQA shall send the decision and substantiation for declaring the accreditation invalid to a TLI and the Ministry and make a respective entry into the State Accreditation Register.

(Clause 12.6 supplemented by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, edited by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

12.7. ***(This Clause repealed by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)***

13. In case of a negative result of institutional accreditation, full tuition reimbursement through the state-allocated student benefits shall be terminated for a particular education institution for all academic degrees, as well as the thematic funding of scientific and technical activities from the subsequent academic year until the award of institutional accreditation. An education institution may, in accordance with this Statute, undergo institutional accreditation for a second time after a two-year period.

(Clause 13 changed, edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, changed by N 1397-N of December 11, 2014, supplemented by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

III. Programme accreditation

14. To undergo programme accreditation, an educational institution shall:

- 1) submit an application according to the templates developed by ANQA and approved by the Board of Trustees;
- 2) have a license to conduct educational activities;
- 3) complete ANQA's online questionnaire (<http://forms.anqa.am>);
- 4) present the state accreditation certificate.

(Clause 14 changed by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

15. Programme accreditation shall be carried out through three consecutive stages:

- 1) *First stage*: the education institutions' self-evaluation of academic programme and educational activities in accordance with the relevant template developed by ANQA and approved by the Board of Trustees.
- 2) *Second stage*: the expert panel's external review of education institutions' self-evaluation and educational activities in line with state academic standards, as well as institutional accreditation criteria and standards approved by the RA Government.
- 3) *Third stage*: based on the results of the self-evaluation and external review, ANQA's Accreditation Committee, makes one of the following decisions:
 - a. to grant a programme accreditation;
 - b. to grant conditional programme accreditation;
 - c. to reject programme accreditation.

(Clause 15 changed by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

16. The acceptance of an application and self-evaluation of education institution, external review and decision-making shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements of this Statute.

17. Accredited academic programmes shall be registered in the State Accreditation Register.

18. *(This Clause repealed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)*

19. For programme accreditation purposes, education institutions may apply to ANQA or other quality assurance agencies that are either registered in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) or are full members of European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). Education institutions shall, within five calendar days, notify ANQA of the launch of the accreditation process by foreign agencies. The education institutions that offer academic programmes in countries outside the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), or TLI branches from these countries located in the Republic of Armenia, may apply to recognised accreditation agencies, the list of which is approved by the Minister. The results of the programme accreditation shall enter into the State Accreditation Register. In case of failure to notify ANQA, the results of programme accreditation shall not be registered in the State Accreditation Register. A TLI's academic programme shall be considered accredited upon registration in the State Accreditation Register.

(Clause 19 edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

20. *(This Clause repealed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)*

21. ANQA shall submit the Accreditation Committee's decision, accreditation certificate and supplement template to the Ministry for the Minister's approval. In case of a procedural infringement of the accreditation process, the documents are returned to ANQA for reconsideration. In case of lack of a procedural infringement, within twenty working days, the accreditation certificate is approved by the Minister and submitted to ANQA for the entry into the State Accreditation Register. ANQA shall, within one working day, make a relevant entry into the State Accreditation Register and properly hand over the accreditation certificate to a TLI after the signature in the Register. A TLI's academic programme shall be considered accredited upon the registration in the State Accreditation Register. ANQA shall publish the decision on programme accreditation on its website.

(Clause 21 changed by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

22. Programme accreditation shall be granted for a period of five years.

22.1. A TLI may be granted conditional programme accreditation in case the shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report can be eliminated in no more than two years.

(Clause 22.1 supplemented by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011)

22.2. Every six months following the award of the conditional programme accreditation, a TLI shall submit a follow-up plan to ANQA.

(Clause 22.2 supplemented by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011)

22.3. If the shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report are not eliminated within the specified period, the supplement to the state accreditation certificate shall lose its validity.

(Clause 22.3 supplemented by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011)

22.4. In case of the elimination of shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report, an education institution with conditional programme accreditation shall apply for a new programme accreditation process.

(Clause 22.4 supplemented by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011)

22.5. The same education institution may not receive conditional programme accreditation more than twice consecutively.

(Clause 22.5 supplemented by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011)

22.6. In case of a negative result of programme accreditation, full tuition reimbursement in the form of student benefits for a particular academic programme allocated by the state shall be terminated from the subsequent academic year until the award of programme accreditation. If the programme accreditation result is negative for a bachelor programme, full tuition reimbursement through state-allocated student benefits shall be terminated for all three academic degrees from the subsequent academic year until the award of programme accreditation. In accordance with this Statute, an education institution may undergo programme accreditation after a one-year period.

(Clause 22.6 supplemented by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

23. The Minister shall approve the certificate and its supplement upon ANQA's submission. ANQA shall ensure the printing, registration and maintenance of the accreditation certificate and supplement. The accreditation certificate shall include the certificate number and series, an education institution's full name, the location and place of operation of an education institution or a branch, the number and date of the Accreditation Committee's decision and registration number, the issuance date of the certificate and its validity period. The supplement to the accreditation certificate shall contain the number and series of the state accreditation certificate, the supplement's number and series, the full name of an education institution or a branch, the accredited programme's classifier and name, the qualification degree, the number and date of the Accreditation Committee's decision, the issuance date of the certificate and its validity period. The supplement shall be valid only when the certificate is in force.

(Clause 23 supplemented by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

24. An education institution is obliged to inform students about the results of programme accreditation.

25. The Accreditation Committee's institutional or programme accreditation decisions may be appealed to ANQA's Board of Trustees within one month of the publication of the decision, in line with the Procedure on the Formation and Operation of the Accreditation Committee, or to a court as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

(Clause 25 changed, edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, edited by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

26. *(This Clause repealed by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)*

27. It is not allowed to alienate, pledge, or transfer the state accreditation certificate and supplement to another person.

(Clause 27 supplemented by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

IV. PROCEDURE ON ACCEPTNACE OF APPLICATION AND SELF-EVALUATION, EXTERNAL REVIEW AND DECISION-MAKING

28. ANQA shall accept applications for accreditation throughout the whole year.

29. ANQA shall discuss the issue of acceptance or rejection of the application and notify the applicant in writing no later than one month after the receipt of the application. The application may be rejected in case:

- 1) the institution lacks the required license to conduct educational activities;
- 2) the submitted package of documents is incomplete;
- 3) the submitted package of documents contains unreliable information;
- 4) the institution's activities are suspended;
- 5) the institution fails to complete ANQA's electronic questionnaire.

(Clause 29 edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

29.1. In the cases specified in subpoints 2 and 5 of Clause 29 of this Statute, the applicant may resubmit the application to ANQA if the shortcomings are eliminated within a five-day period.

(Clause 29.1 supplemented by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

30. ANQA shall conduct institutional or programme accreditation processes within one year of the application's acceptance.

(Clause 30 changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

31. Within one week after the application acceptance, a paid service contract shall be signed between the applicant and ANQA in the manner prescribed by the RA legislation. The contract shall clearly state the start date and schedule of the process.

32. Within 12 weeks after the launch of the process, the education institution is obliged to submit self-evaluation to ANQA.

(Clause 32 changed by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011)

33. The self-evaluation shall be presented in Armenian, in paper and electronic versions. If an international expert is involved, the self-evaluation shall also be presented in English.

(Clause 33 edited by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

34. In case of discrepancies between the Armenian and English texts of the self-evaluation, the Armenian version shall prevail.

35. The self-evaluation shall be accompanied by the package of supporting documents required by the template.

36. Within five weeks after the receipt of the self-evaluation, ANQA shall make a decision on the acceptance or rejection of the self-evaluation.

(Clause 36 changed by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011)

37. ANQA shall make a decision to return the self-evaluation in case:

- 1) it does not comply with ANQA's standardized template;
- 2) there are contextual, technical, structural, or other shortcomings;
- 3) data reflected therein is unreliable.

38. A one-month period shall be given to a TLI to resolve the above-mentioned issues.

39. If the above-mentioned issues are resolved within the specified timeframe and the self-evaluation is resubmitted, ANQA shall make a new decision on its acceptance.

40. ANQA shall submit the expert panel's composition to a TLI in writing within five weeks of the decision on the acceptance of the self-evaluation. The Regulation on the Formation of the expert panel shall be approved by ANQA's Board of Trustees.

(Clause 40 changed by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011)

41. ANQA and a TLI agree on the composition of the expert panel within two weeks.

42. In case of disagreement on the composition of the expert panel, the validity period of the contract signed with the TLI shall be extended by a month until the approval of

the new expert panel. If no agreement is reached on the new composition of the expert panel within one month, the contract between ANQA and a TLI shall be terminated.

(Clause 42 edited by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

43. The final composition of the expert panel, agreed upon with the Accreditation Committee and subsequently with a TLI, shall be approved by the order of ANQA's Director. ANQA shall sign paid service contracts with experts.

(Clause 43 edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

44. Within 12 weeks of ANQA's approval of the expert panel, the panel shall conduct a visit to the TLI (hereinafter referred to as the "site visit").

(Clause 44 changed by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011)

45. The site visit's schedule, conditions, process and duration shall be determined by mutual agreement between an education institution and ANQA.

46. The site visit may last from three to seven days.

(Clause 46 edited by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011)

47. Following the site visit, ANQA shall have the right to require additional documents if necessity.

48. Within six weeks after the site visit, the expert panel shall prepare and submit a preliminary version of the expert panel report to ANQA.

(Clause 48 changed by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

49. ANQA shall send the preliminary version of the expert panel report to a TLI within one week of its receipt.

(Clause 49 changed by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

50. The TLI may submit its comments and objections to the preliminary expert panel report to ANQA within two weeks. If no comments or objections are submitted, a TLI shall be considered to have agreed on the preliminary report. If the TLI's objections and comments are found to be justified, the preliminary version of the expert panel report shall be revised accordingly.

51. Following the submission of the preliminary report, the expert panel shall submit the final report to ANQA within seven weeks.

(Clause 51 changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

52. (This Clause repealed by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

53. (This Clause repealed by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

54. Within 12 weeks after the submission of the preliminary version of the expert panel report, ANQA shall publish on its official website the results of a TLI's institutional and programme accreditation and the Accreditation Committee's decisions.

(Clause 54 changed by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, N 301-N of March 19, 2014, N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

V. FINAL PROVISIONS

55. At least one year prior to the expiration of the institutional and programme accreditation period, a TLI may apply to ANQA to start new accreditation processes.

(Clause 55 changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

56. The expenses for the external review, business trips and other processes related to the implementation of institutional and programme accreditation, regardless of the results, shall be reimbursed by an education institution on a contractual basis, in accordance with the cost rates approved by ANQA's Board of Trustees and published by ANQA. The education institutions are required to transfer the designated amount to ANQA's settlement account.

(Clause 56 changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014)

57. The state accreditation shall be declared invalid in the following cases:

- 1) the accreditation certificate's validity period has expired;
- 2) an education institution's activities have been terminated in the manner prescribed by the RA legislation;
- 3) an education institution's license for the provision of educational services has been declared invalid.

58. ANQA shall publish the decision on declaring the state accreditation invalid on its website and make a respective entry into the State Accreditation Register.

59. After receiving the decision to declare an education institution's accreditation invalid under subpoints 2 and 3 of Clause 57, the institution is obliged to return the state accreditation certificate to ANQA and notify the Ministry of the termination within ten days.

(Clause 59 changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, edited by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

60. The decision to declare state accreditation invalid may be appealed in court in the manner prescribed by the RA legislation.

61. In case an education institution loses its state accreditation certificate, the institution shall apply to the Ministry, which issues a new certificate marked “Copy” within fifteen days.

(Clause 61 changed by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, edited by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

62. ANQA’s Board of Trustees shall approve the Manual for the External Review of Tertiary Level Institutions of RA, as well as the self-evaluation templates for institutional and programme accreditation.

(Clause 62 changed by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, changed, edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, edited by N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

(Appendix edited, changed, supplemented by N 1907-N of December 15, 2011, supplemented, changed and edited by N 301-N of March 19, 2014, N 1397-N of December 11, 2014 and N 1374-N of August 29, 2024)

**Chief of the Staff of the Government of
the Republic of Armenia**

D. Sargsyan