



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2025/124

DECISION No. 124

April 18, 2025

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF VANADZOR STATE UNIVERSITY AFTER H. TUMANYAN

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: Vanadzor State University after H. Tumanyan
(foundation)

Official Address: 36 Tigran Metsi Ave., Vanadzor, Lori region, RA

Previous Accreditation **Institutional accreditation for a period of four years,**
decision and date: **Decision No. 40 of January 15, 2021**

Guided by the Statute on State Accreditation of Tertiary Level Institutions and their Academic Programmes approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of June 30, 2011, the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of June 30, 2011 on the Approval of Accreditation Criteria for Tertiary Education of RA, the Procedure on the Formation and Operation of the Accreditation Committee of the “National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance” foundation (hereinafter referred to as “ANQA”) as well as by the Regulation on the Formation of ANQA’s Expert Panel, ANQA’s Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of the Vanadzor State University after H. Tumanyan (hereinafter referred to as “VSU”, “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on April 18, 2025.

The main phases of the accreditation process were carried out within the following periods:

Submission of application: February 22, 2024

Submission of the revised self-evaluation: July 9, 2024

Site visit by the expert panel: October 7-10, 2024

Submission of the expert panel report: January 30, 2025

Submission of the preliminary follow-up plan March 7, 2025

The external review of the VSU's institutional capacities was carried out by the following expert panel:

- **Anushavan Makaryan**, Candidate of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Associate Professor, adviser to the rector of the Yerevan State University, chair of the expert panel.
- **Gegham Karoyan**, Candidate of Technical Sciences, Associate Professor, deputy head for educational activities at the Institute of Information and Telecommunication Technologies and Electronics of National Polytechnic University of Armenia.
- **Mare Khachatryan**, Candidate of Economics, Associate Professor at the Chair of Finance of the Armenian State University of Economics.
- **Magdalena Lieb**, deputy head of the Department for Legal Affairs and Quality Management in Teaching and Research at Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.
- **Zaruhi Hakobyan**, third-year student of the AP "Information Security" at the National Polytechnic University of Armenia.

The evaluation was conducted according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959 as of June 30, 2011. Evaluation according to accreditation criteria:

Evaluation	Conclusion
1. Mission and Purpose	Satisfactory
2. Governance and Administration	Unsatisfactory
3. Academic Programmes	Satisfactory
4. Students	Satisfactory
5. Faculty and Staff	Satisfactory
6. Research and Development	Satisfactory
7. Infrastructure and Resources	Satisfactory
8. Societal Responsibility	Satisfactory
9. External Relations and Internationalization	Satisfactory

Having examined the institution's self-evaluation of institutional capacities, the expert panel report, the follow-up plan; having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation, which were made by the two members selected by the Chair of the Accreditation Committee and were formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and the institution's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

1. The institution ensures the credible award of qualifications.

The VSU's academic programmes (APs) generally ensure the preparation of graduates in line with the requirements of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and employers. The APs are subject to analysis and benchmarking against similar programmes. Mechanisms for AP monitoring and self-evaluation have been introduced. The teaching staff includes experienced specialists with relevant academic degrees and titles. The VSU provides the minimum material-technical resources required for the AP implementation, including equipped laboratories and teaching facilities. The development of practical skills is supported through internships and graduation works with the involvement of employers.

Meanwhile, more active and continuous engagement of external stakeholders, particularly employers, should be ensured in the development, revision and evaluation of APs.

To ensure the sustainability and relevance of the APs, the VSU should promote the recruitment of young specialists through an appropriate policy. The application of modern teaching methods should also be encouraged, alongside the development of students' research and innovation capacities. In addition, the VSU should create a favourable environment to significantly increase the stakeholder engagement in teaching across all fields of study.

2. Strategic management and the quality assurance system are aimed at the development of mechanisms for the credible award of qualifications. However, the interaction between these two systems still requires enhancement to ensure effective and data-driven governance.

The VSU's strategic management is guided by the approved strategic plan. However, the KPIs are not always sufficiently clear and measurable to support regular monitoring. It is therefore necessary to revise the KPIs and monitoring mechanisms to ensure a clear link between strategic goals and data-informed decision-making.

The Board of Trustees, as the VSU's highest governing body, should include measures for financial sustainability in its strategic priorities, with particular emphasis on the scientific research direction. To increase the effectiveness of the Board's role, it is necessary to ensure regular meetings, clarify key areas of strategic importance and approve a risk management plan. In this capacity, the Board should act as the principal body responsible for the implementation of the founder's policy framework in shaping policy decisions and development priorities.

To strengthen the role of the Scientific Council, the VSU should review its charter to clearly distinguish between academic decision-making, which should fall under the responsibility of the Scientific Council, and the strategic governance of institutional development, which should be led by the Board of Trustees.

In addition, the VSU should establish a clearly defined QA structure with well-defined roles and mechanisms. The QA system should support decision-making, maintaining an appropriate level of independence.

3. Internationalisation and research activities support the credible award of qualifications and the institution's development.

Research and creative activities, as well as internationalisation and external cooperation, should serve as important drivers of the VSU's development and competitiveness. These areas should be viewed not merely as separate initiatives, but as a strategic foundation for institutional advancement. The VSU should strengthen the research infrastructure, continuously promote institutional participation in international programmes and institutionalise the resulting achievements. Meanwhile, there is a need to expand sustainable partnership networks in both academic and business sectors, with proactive engagement of students and teachers. To this end, systematic cooperation should be established among the Board of Trustees, the Scientific Council and the management staff to develop and periodically revise the priority areas of research. This

process should consider the institution's internal research capacity and external scientific and economic challenges.

4. The follow-up plan should include urgent solution of the above-mentioned issues, ensuring relevant measures for risk prevention and financial management.

Taking into consideration the above mentioned, as a result of an open voting, the Accreditation Committee:

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to the Vanadzor State University after H. Tumanyan for 4 /four/ years.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit a revised follow-up plan based on the expert panel report and respective time schedule to ANQA within two months. The plan should be approved by the institution's Board of Trustees.
3. In accordance with the requirements set by point 12 of the Statute on State Accreditation of Tertiary Level Institutions and their Academic Programmes, every 2 /two/ years to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of enhancement of the TLI's activity, innovations and achievements. The evaluation results should be discussed at the institution's Board of Trustees.
4. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of the effectiveness of the TLI's activities in accordance with the KPIs.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee:

V. Gabrielyan

April 18, 2025

Yerevan