

Order No. 3 of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia

On Approval of the Rule for Calculating Higher Educational Programmes in Credits

To ensure the implementation of Article 87(8) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, on the basis of Article 7(1)(p¹) of the Law of Georgia on Higher Education and Article 3(2)(m) of Resolution No. 37 of the Government of Georgia of 21 May 2004 "On Approval of the Regulations of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia", I order:

1. The attached Rule for Calculating Higher Educational Programmes in Credits shall be approved.
2. This Order enters into force 15 days after its publication.

Acting Minister A. Didebulidze

Rule for Calculating Higher Educational Programmes in Credits

Article 1. Scope of Regulation and General Provisions

1. The Rule for Calculating Higher Educational Programmes in Credits (hereinafter – the Rule) establishes the rules and principles for distributing the credits of a higher educational programme, calculating student workload, and assessing learning outcomes.
2. This Rule and the assessment of learning outcomes are based on the principles and approaches developed by the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).
3. The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) ensures the introduction and implementation of student-centred teaching and learning processes and of transparent approaches to the assessment of learning outcomes.
4. The purpose of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is to facilitate the planning and implementation of the educational programme and the assessment of learning outcomes, as well as the recognition of the component(s) of the educational programme, of knowledge, skills and competences, and the process of student mobility.

Amending orders:

Order No. 07/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 January 2016 – Website, 29.01.2016
Order No. 105/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 December 2021 – Website, 30.12.2021

Article 1¹. Definition of Terms

For the purposes of this Rule, the terms used have the following meanings:

- a) Credit – a unit that expresses the learning workload required of a student and that may be obtained after the learning outcomes have been achieved;
- b) Contact hour – the time determined for the student's learning activity with the involvement of the personnel carrying out a component of the educational programme;
- c) Independent hour – the time of the student's learning activity without the involvement of the personnel carrying out a component of the educational programme;

- d) Components of the educational programme – the components of the educational programme are the learning component and the scientific-research/research component;
- e) Learning component – a constituent part of the educational programme, presented in the form of a course/subject, practice, a creative/performance practical project/paper, a bachelor's research project/paper, or another component;
- f) Module – an independent, sequential block of teaching that combines related courses/subjects. The module defines the interrelations and sequence of the courses/subjects. Several modules make up a curriculum;
- g) Concentration – a grouping of courses/subjects/modules of content corresponding to the main field of study of an educational programme of the first and second levels of higher education, focused on a specific theme/issue. A concentration has a learning outcome that is provided for in the learning outcomes of the educational programme;
- h) Scientific-research component – a constituent part of a master's or doctoral educational programme, presented in the form of a master's project/paper, a dissertation or a creative/performance work, or another scientific project/paper;
- i) Student workload – the time required to achieve the learning outcomes defined by the components of the educational programme. Student workload must be based on independent and contact hours;
- j) Assessment components – the assessment components are the midterm assessment (one-time or multiple) and the final assessment, the sum of which constitutes the final grade;
- k) Assessment method – the means used to assess the achievement of the learning outcomes defined in a component of the educational programme (oral/written examination/interview, project, portfolio, test, essay, demonstration, presentation, discussion, presentation of an audiovisual work, exhibition, participation in/staging of a performance, concert performance, completion of a practical/theoretical assignment, work in a working group, participation in a discussion, solving a case, participation in a simulated process, objective structured clinical examination (OSCE), objective structured practical examination (OSPE), etc.);
- l) Assessment criterion – the unit of measurement of an assessment method by which the level of achievement of the learning outcomes is determined.

Amending orders:

Order No. 07/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 January 2016 – Website, 29.01.2016
 Order No. 105/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 December 2021 – Website, 30.12.2021

Article 2. Distribution of Credits

1. Credits are distributed among each component defined by the educational programme (except the scientific-research component of a doctoral-level educational programme) and include the contact and independent hours necessary for the learning outcomes to be achieved through the specific component.
2. A learning component lasts one semester.
3. A concentration may combine courses/subjects and/or modules of the same semester or of different semesters. A module may combine courses/subjects of the same semester or of different semesters.
4. One credit comprises 25–30 hours of student learning workload, which combines both contact and independent hours. A higher education institution is authorized to determine the volume of

student learning workload within the range of 25–30 hours, taking into account the aims, learning outcomes and specifics of the higher educational programme.

5. The distribution of credits among different learning components must be based on a realistic assessment of the workload of a student with average academic achievement that is required to achieve the learning outcomes and aims established for each component.

6. When calculating a credit, the time determined for an additional examination (preparation, taking, assessment), as well as consultation time with the person carrying out the component of the educational programme, shall not be taken into account.

7. At a higher education institution, a learning component with the same content, volume, aims and learning outcomes comprises an equal number of credits for the students of all programmes.

Amending orders:

Order No. 785-ბბთIII of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 21 September 2009, No. 115, 22.09.2009, Art. 1313

Order No. 218/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 8 October 2012 – Website, 10.10.2012

Order No. 243/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 November 2012 – Website, 26.11.2012

Order No. 07/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 January 2016 – Website, 29.01.2016

Order No. 102/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 18 August 2016 – Website, 23.08.2016

Order No. 105/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 December 2021 – Website, 30.12.2021

Article 2¹. Study Week/Semester/Academic Year

1. A study week is a period of time over which the learning workload of a student with average academic achievement is distributed, and includes the totality of activities to be carried out in both contact and independent time.

2. A semester is a period of time that includes a set of study weeks and the period for conducting the examination/additional examination and for assessing the student's achievement of the learning outcomes.

3. An academic year is a set of semesters and the rest period between them, not exceeding 12 consecutive calendar months.

4. The full workload of one academic year comprises 60 (ECTS) credits.

5. Taking into account the specifics of the higher educational programme and/or of the student's individual curriculum, it is permissible for the student's learning workload within one academic year to exceed 60 credits or to be less than 60 credits. It is not permissible for the student's learning workload within one academic year to exceed 75 (ECTS) credits.

6. Within a Doctor of Medicine educational programme, taking into account the duration, volume and structure defined by the relevant field benchmark, the student's learning workload within one academic year comprises 60 (ECTS) credits. By the student's individual curriculum, the student's learning workload within one academic year may be set at more than 60 credits; within the duration established by the field benchmark of the Doctor of Medicine educational programme, the total number of credits added above 60 must not in sum exceed 15 credits.

Amending orders:

Order No. 07/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 January 2016 – Website, 29.01.2016

Order No. 102/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 18 August 2016 – Website, 23.08.2016

Order No. 115/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia of 3 December 2020 – Website, 04.12.2020

Order No. 105/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 December 2021 – Website, 30.12.2021

Article 3. Part-Time Mode of Teaching and Learning

1. A higher education institution is authorized, based on its educational aims, to carry out the teaching and learning process with a part-time workload within master's and doctoral educational programmes.
2. The part-time mode of teaching and learning means a student learning workload per week with a total volume of independent and contact hours of not more than 25 hours.
3. Part-time teaching and learning within one academic year may comprise 30 (ECTS) credits.

Amending orders:

Order No. 785-ბბმIII of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 21 September 2009, No. 115, 22.09.2009, Art. 1313

Order No. 41/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 9 February 2012 – Website, 14.02.2012

Order No. 59/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 March 2012 – Website, 09.03.2012

Order No. 60/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 May 2013 – Website, 06.06.2013

Order No. 07/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 January 2016 – Website, 29.01.2016

Order No. 102/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 18 August 2016 – Website, 23.08.2016

Order No. 105/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 December 2021 – Website, 30.12.2021

Article 4. Assessment of the Student in a Learning Component

1. The assessment of the level of the student's achievement of the learning outcome in a learning component of the programme must include a midterm and a final assessment.
2. Each assessment component must be assigned a quantitative indicator (which may be expressed in percentages or points) of the total assessment score (100 points) in the final grade.
3. Awarding credit using only one assessment component (midterm or final assessment) is not permitted. A student is awarded credit upon surmounting the minimum competence thresholds defined in each assessment component provided for by paragraph 4 of this article and, where they exist, in each assessment method provided for by paragraph 5 of this article, and upon receiving one of the positive grades defined by paragraphs 7–8 of this article.
4. A minimum competence threshold must be defined in each assessment component. The share of the minimum competence threshold of the final assessment must not exceed 60% of the final assessment. In cases provided for by the field benchmark of higher education in medicine, the share of the minimum competence threshold of the final assessment may exceed 60% of the final assessment.
5. Taking into account the aims, learning outcomes and specifics of the higher educational programme, a higher education institution is authorized to define a minimum competence threshold in the assessment method(s).
6. The assessment of the achievement of the learning outcomes of the learning components of the educational programme (except a concentration and a module) must be completed in the same semester in which the component was carried out.
7. The assessment system allows:

a) five types of positive grade:

a.a) (A) Excellent – 91–100 points;

a.b) (B) Very good – 81–90 points;

a.c) (C) Good – 71–80 points;

a.d) (D) Satisfactory – 61–70 points;

a.e) (E) Sufficient – 51–60 points.

b) two types of negative grade:

b.a) (FX) Did not pass – 41–50 points, which means that the student needs to work more in order to pass and is given the right to sit an additional examination once, after independent work;

b.b) (F) Failed – 40 points or fewer, which means that the work done by the student is insufficient and the student must study the course/subject again from the beginning.

8. A higher education institution is authorized, taking into account the aims, learning outcomes and specifics of the educational programmes, as well as the minimum competence thresholds, to set a minimum positive grade different from subparagraph (a) of paragraph 7 of this article, which must not be less than 51 points or more than 60 points.

9. If a student receives FX in a learning component of the educational programme, or fails to receive the positive grade defined by paragraph 8 of this article, the higher education institution is obliged to schedule an additional examination no earlier than 5 days after the announcement of the final examination results.

10. The points received by the student on the additional examination are not added to the points received in the final assessment.

11. The grade received on the additional examination is the final assessment and is reflected in the final grade of the learning component of the educational programme.

Amending orders:

Order No. 441-ბბთIII of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 20 June 2007, No. 94, 02.07.2007, Art. 1013

Order No. 785-ბბთIII of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 21 September 2009, No. 115, 22.09.2009, Art. 1313

Order No. 41/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 9 February 2012 – Website, 14.02.2012

Order No. 43/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 14 February 2012 – Website, 20.02.2012

Order No. 59/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 March 2012 – Website, 09.03.2012

Order No. 216/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 2 October 2012 – Website, 05.10.2012

Order No. 218/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 8 October 2012 – Website, 10.10.2012

Order No. 243/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 22 November 2012 – Website, 26.11.2012

Order No. 60/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 May 2013 – Website, 06.06.2013

Order No. 07/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 January 2016 – Website, 29.01.2016

Order No. 102/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 18 August 2016 – Website, 23.08.2016

Order No. 105/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 December 2021 – Website, 30.12.2021

Article 4¹. Repealed

Amending orders:

Order No. 120-ბბთIII of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 16 February 2007, No. 124, 22.02.2007, Art. 288

Order No. 100-ბბთIII of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 11 February 2008, No. 26, 20.02.2008, Art. 272

Order No. 785-ბბთIII of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 21 September 2009, No. 115, 22.09.2009, Art. 1313

Article 4². Assessment of the Student in the Scientific-Research Component

1. A higher education institution is authorized, taking into account the aims, learning outcomes and specifics of a master's and doctoral educational programme, to set the time limits for completing the scientific-research component. A dissertation, master's project/paper, creative/performance work or other scientific project/paper must be assessed in the same or the following semester in which the student completes work on it.
2. A master's project/paper, dissertation, creative/performance work, or other scientific project/paper submitted for the award of an academic degree must be assessed as a whole, in a unified manner, by a final assessment, which includes the assessments of the persons determined by the higher education institution and the grade received at the defence.
3. Taking into account the aims, learning outcomes and specifics of a doctoral-level higher educational programme, the higher education institution determines, and in the case of a master's-level higher educational programme is authorized to determine, the preconditions for admitting the student to the defence of the master's project/paper, dissertation, creative/performance work, or other scientific project/paper, which take into account periodic formative assessments of the student's progress.
4. A master's project/paper, creative/performance work or other scientific project/paper is assessed by the system defined by Article 4(7) of this Rule.
5. For the scientific-research component of a master's educational programme, where the grade provided for by subparagraph (b.a) of subparagraph (b) of Article 4(7) of this Rule is received, the master's student is given the right to submit the reworked scientific-research component during the following semester, and where the grade provided for by subparagraph (b.b) of subparagraph (b) of Article 4(7) of this Rule is received, the master's student loses the right to submit the same scientific-research component.
6. The system for assessing the scientific-research component of a doctoral educational programme:
 - a) Excellent (summa cum laude) – an outstanding work;
 - b) Very good (magna cum laude) – a result that exceeds the requirements set in every respect;
 - c) Good (cum laude) – a result that exceeds the requirements set;
 - d) Average (bene) – a work of average level that meets the basic requirements set;
 - e) Satisfactory (rite) – a result that, despite shortcomings, still meets the requirements set;
 - f) Unsatisfactory (insufficient) – a work of unsatisfactory level that does not meet the requirements set;
 - g) Completely unsatisfactory (sub omni canone) – a result that completely fails to meet the requirements set.
7. A higher education institution is authorized to align the assessment system defined by paragraph 6 of this article with point indicators.

8. Where the grade provided for by subparagraph (f) of paragraph 6 of this article is received, a higher education institution is authorized to set the conditions and time limits for the student's submission of the dissertation, and where the grade provided for by subparagraph (g) of paragraph 6 is received, the doctoral student loses the right to submit the same dissertation.

Amending orders:

Order No. 105/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 December 2021 – Website, 30.12.2021

Article 5. Transitional Provisions

1. All licensed educational institutions in which other types of credit systems have been introduced must, for the 2006/2007 academic year, switch to the credit system defined by this Rule.

2. A higher education institution is authorized to decide that this Rule shall not apply to students enrolled before the 2006–2007 academic year. At higher education institutions that are legal entities of public law, this decision must be made by the acting rector on the submission of the acting dean, and, after the creation of the institution's academic council, by the academic council, and must be formalized by an individual administrative-legal act.

2¹. During the transitional period, a higher education institution is authorized, taking into account the aims and learning outcomes of the bachelor's educational programme, the specifics of the programme and the best interests of the student, to set, for the completion and assessment of a bachelor's research project/paper or creative/performance paper, time limits different from those of Article 2(2) and Article 4(6) of this Rule. A higher education institution is authorized to set for the student no more than 2 semesters for completing the bachelor's research project/paper or creative/performance paper, and the assessment must be completed in the same or the following semester in which the student completes work on it.

2². The transitional period provided for by paragraph 2¹ of this article shall be considered to be the period until the threat of the spread of the novel coronavirus is eliminated.

3. (Repealed).

4. (Repealed – 31.05.2013, No. 60/n);

5. (Repealed – 31.05.2013, No. 60/n);

6. (Repealed – 31.05.2013, No. 60/n).

Amending orders:

Order No. 120-ბბთIII of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 16 February 2007, No. 124, 22.02.2007, Art. 288

Order No. 785-ბბთIII of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 21 September 2009, No. 115, 22.09.2009, Art. 1313

Order No. 41/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 9 February 2012 – Website, 14.02.2012

Order No. 59/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 7 March 2012 – Website, 09.03.2012

Order No. 60/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 31 May 2013 – Website, 06.06.2013

Order No. 105/n of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia of 29 December 2021 – Website, 30.12.2021