



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2021/57

DECREE N 57

July 24, 2021

**ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF
ARARAT STATE COLLEGE**

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: Ararat State College SNCO
Official Address: 67 Khanjyan Str., Ararat city, Ararat province
province, RA

Previous Accreditation **Not available**
decision and date:

Guided by the Statute on the State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of 30 June 2011, the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011 on approval of Establishing 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 Expert Panel, ANQA’s Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of the Ararat State College (hereinafter referred to as “ASC”, “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on July 24, 2021.

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

Submission of application: July 9, 2020
Submission of the self-evaluation: October 15, 2020
Site visit by the expert panel: November 23-26, 2020

Submission of expert panel report: January 29, 2021

Submission of the follow-up plan February 11, 2021

The external review of the ASC's institutional capacities was carried out by an independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by the Regulation on the Formation of the Expert Panel. The evaluation was carried out according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959 as of 30 June 2011.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, 3 of them — **“Governance and Administration”**, **“Academic Programmes”**, **“Research and Development”** were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the ASC's self-evaluation of institutional capacities, remarks and suggestions on the preliminary version of the expert panel report, the expert panel report, the follow-up plan; having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation, which were made by the three 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 ASC's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

1. There are problems in terms of the credible award of qualifications. However, there are also trends and examples of development.

Not all academic programmes (Aps) align with the mission. According to the charter and mission, the ASC's activity is aimed at the conduct of economic, service and pedagogical education. However, the TLI also prepares specialists in other directions not provided by the mission. The APs have been developed in accordance with state academic standards and are described in details according to the expected learning outcomes of the awarded qualifications. The APs generally ensure the formation of learners' professional capacities.

The ASC has planned to carry out specific actions towards the elimination of some shortcomings.

The ASC is replenished with highly qualified and relatively young teaching and administrative staff. The TLI's management staff realizes the importance of gradual development of pedagogical and professional skills of the young staff and takes steps in that direction.

For the implementation of its mission and academic programmes, the ASC has the necessary educational environment, resources and material-technical base, which provides an opportunity for the Aps' implementation.

2. Governance and quality assurance systems are at the stage of formation. However, there are development trends and the governance is aimed at quality enhancement and the credible award of qualifications.

Generally, the ASC's activities correspond to the defined mission, align with the RA NQF. The TLI's goals and objectives to some extent express the stakeholders' needs.

The ASC's culture of strategic management has been introduced over the recent years. Elements of strategic management based on the KPIs are gradually introduced for the purpose of the TLI's governance. There are procedures and regulations that ensure the ASC's governance processes. No policy operates for the implementation and monitoring of long-term and short-term plannings. Mechanisms and systems for data collection are in place, but need to be replenished. There is a practical system of accountability, but an analytical component still lacks.

The quality assurance processes have been recently introduced. The ASC has created documents regulating the field. There is an internal quality assurance center, which clearly visualizes the processes and tasks of the structure. The ASC's teachers and students are involved in QA processes. However, the TLI's PDCA cycle of quality assurance is not fully operational yet and processes are at the stage of introduction. The ASC attaches importance to the internal quality assurance system and takes clear steps towards its establishment.

3. Internationalization and research/creative activities sufficiently support the credible award of qualifications.

The ASC takes steps towards the expansion of cooperation with local and international organizations, ensuring a wide range of cooperation.

The ASC cooperates with the Armenian representative offices of several international organizations and the regional Employment Center. The ASC does not have cooperative and partnership relations on the international stage yet. There is still a weak connection between the TLI and the labour market, as employers are not involved in the ASC as teachers.

The ASC prepares and submits reports to stakeholders. The TLI ensures the transparency and accessibility of the reports. Steps are taken to make the society participant in the ASC's educational processes.

The ASC's Strategic Plan (SP) for Research Sector does not clearly express goals, sequence of implementation steps and time schedules. Clear policies and procedures have not been developed as well. No steps are taken towards internationalization of research activities. The research and teaching processes are not interconnected.

4. The shortcomings mentioned in the expert panel report do not have crucial impact in terms of the credible award of qualifications. Meanwhile, grounds are laid for enhancement.

5. Not all recommendations included in the expert panel report have been correctly understood by the TLI. Most of the defined expected outcomes do not correspond to the enhancements expected by the expert panel. The follow-up plan contains risks and needs revision.

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

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to Ararat State College SNCO 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, taking into account the need to give urgent solution to the problems existing in the fields of **“Governance and Administration”, “Academic Programmes”, “Research and Development”**.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the need to have clear and measurable qualitative and quantitative indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of the processes implemented by the TLI;
 - b) the conduct of short-term and mid-term planning and analytical accountability in accordance with the SP;
 - c) the implementation of the TLI's processes on a more regulated and collegial basis;
 - d) the involvement of stakeholders in all the processes of the TLI;

- e) the development of a clear policy for teaching and assessment methods in line with the APs' expected learning outcomes;
 - f) the connection of research and educational processes, the acquisition of practical skills;
 - g) the organization of teaching aimed at the development of students' analytical, creative and critical skills;
 - h) the formation and continuous development of quality culture, implementation of the PDCA cycle in all the processes.
4. In accordance with the requirements set by point 12 of the the Statute on the State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs, 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.
5. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of effectiveness of the activities of the TLI in accordance with the KPIs.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

July 24, 2021

Yerevan