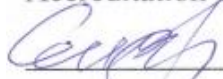


APPROVED:

At the meeting

Accreditation Council IARC

 S.T. Sarbanov

Protocol No. 9 dated 07/04/2024

CONFIRM

Director of IARC

 B.B. Koshoeva

Order No. 2/008 dated 07/04/2024



STANDARDS
for institutional accreditation
of educational organizations implementing
higher professional education programs

*Recommended by the Expert Council of the Independent Institute of Accreditation,
Rating and Certification*

Reviewers:

- 1. N.K. Rasulova, Candidate of economic Sciences, Associate Professor,
NRU of KEU, IARC expert*
- 2. M.K. Chimchikova, Candidate of Technical Sciences, Associate
Professor KSTU, IARC expert*
- 3. R.Ch. Osmonova, Candidate of Technical Sciences, Associate Professor
KSTU, IARC expert*

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These standards define the requirements for the preparation and implementation of the procedure for institutional accreditation of an organization of higher professional education, regardless of its status, organizational and legal form, departmental subordination and form of ownership.

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Preface

1. Developed and submitted by the Public Foundation (PF) "Independent Institute of Accreditation, Rating and Certification" (IARC).
2. Approved and put into effect by the order of the Director of the PF IARC dated 04.07.2024 No. 2/008

This standard implements the provisions of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Education", the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic "On approval of regulatory legal acts on accreditation in the field of education" dated May 15, 2024 No. 246.

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

Main provisions

1. APPLICATION AREA

- 1.1. These standards define the requirements for higher education institutions (HEI) and the conduct of institutional accreditation of HEI.
- 1.2. These standards are applied when conducting the procedure of institutional accreditation of a HEI, regardless of its status, organizational and legal form, departmental subordination and form of ownership.
- 1.3. These standards can also be used by the HEI for internal assessment of its activities and development of relevant internal regulatory documentation.

2. NORMATIVE REFERENCES

This standard uses references to the following normative documents:

- 2.1. Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Education" dated August 11, 2023 No. 179.
- 2.2. Concept for the development of education in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2023.
- 2.3. Strategy for the development of education in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2040.
- 2.4. Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On approval of the Education Development Program in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2040" dated May 4, 2021 No. 200.
- 2.5. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic "On approval of regulatory legal acts on accreditation in the field of education" dated May 15, 2024 No. 246.
- 2.6. State educational standard of higher professional education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic.

3. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

This standard applies terms and definitions in accordance with the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Education" and other regulatory legal acts of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of education.

In addition to these, these standards establish the following definitions:

Accreditation is a procedure for assessing the quality level of an educational organization as a whole or its individual educational programs by an accreditation agency, during which the compliance of the educational organization or educational program with certain criteria and standards is recognized.

Institutional accreditation is a procedure for recognizing by an accreditation agency that the quality level of an educational organization as a whole meets certain criterion, standards, and its status.

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) - a system based on the student's workload required to achieve the specified learning outcomes. According to ECTS

Quality of educational programs is the compliance of the level of competence of students and graduates with the requirements of educational standards and additional requirements established by the organization implementing educational programs.

Competence is a predetermined social requirement (norm) for the educational preparation of a student (learner), necessary for his effective productive activity in a certain field.

Competency is an integrated ability of a person to independently apply various elements of knowledge and skills in a specific situation (educational, personal and professional).

The final results of student learning are a set of competencies, knowledge and skills that students should have upon completion of training in a given educational program.

Credit (credit unit) is a numerical value corresponding to units of a discipline to characterize the student's workload required for its completion and reflecting the volume of work required for each course relative to the total volume of work required to complete a full year of academic study at a higher education institution. ECTS credit can only be obtained after the required work has been completed and the learning outcomes achieved have been assessed accordingly.

Module is a part of an educational program or a part of an academic discipline that has a certain logical completeness in relation to the established goals and results of training and education.

Monitoring of educational services - collection and analysis of data on the processes and procedures of educational activities.

The main educational program is a set of educational and methodological documentation that regulates the goals, expected results, content and implementation of the educational process in the relevant area of training.

Consumer – an organization or person receiving products or services (students, their parents, employers, state).

A visit to a HEI by a committee of external auditors is a component of external assessment, which is a generally accepted part of the accreditation process. External expert auditors visit the HEI to review the HEI self-assessment materials, interview the faculty, students, and staff, and assess the quality and effectiveness of the services provided, as well as offer recommendations for their improvement. The result of the visit is an audit report on the higher education institution.

Procedure - an established way of carrying out an activity or process.

Process – a set of interrelated and interacting activities that transform «inputs» into «outputs».

Learning outcomes - competencies acquired as a result of studying the main educational program/module.

Quality system – a set of procedures, departments and officials in an organization that perform certain quality management functions in accordance with established rules and accepted methods and ensure that all graduates of an educational program meet the requirements established in accordance with professional standards.

Customer satisfaction is the perception by consumers of the degree to which their requirements are met.

Efficiency is the ratio between the achieved result and the resources used.

4. NOTATIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

This standard uses abbreviations in accordance with the normative documents specified in paragraph 2.

In addition, this standard uses the following notations and abbreviations:

KR - Kyrgyz Republic;

MES KR - Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic;

HEI – higher education institution;

EEC - external expert commission;

SES - state educational standard;

IARC- Independent Institute of Accreditation, Rating and Certification;

MEP - main educational program;

ECTS - European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System;

ESG - standards and recommendations for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area;

PTS – professor, teaching staff;

NQS - National Qualifications System;

AC - Accreditation Council.

5. PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

5.1. Submission by a higher education institution of an application for institutional accreditation with copies attached and permitting documents attached.

5.2. Consideration by IARC of the educational organization's application

5.3. Adoption of a decision by IARC to initiate the procedure of institutional accreditation of a HEI. Conclusion of an agreement between the agency and the HEI on conducting accreditation.

5.4. The management of the educational organization and IARC organizes training to explain the criteria and procedure for institutional accreditation to internal

experts of the educational organization at special seminars on the theory, methodology and technology of conducting institutional accreditation.

5.5. Conducting self-assessment by an educational organization in accordance with the requirements established by IARC, and sending a self-assessment report (in Russian or Kyrgyz languages) to IARC in electronic form and in the amount of 1 copy on paper for each language.

5.6. Based on the analysis of the self-assessment report of the HEI, IARC has the right to make the following decisions:

- develop recommendations on the need to revise the materials of the self-assessment report;
- conduct an external expert assessment;
- postpone the accreditation period due to the impossibility of conducting the institutional accreditation procedure due to the non-compliance of the self-assessment report with the criteria of these standards.

5.7. In case of continuation of accreditation, IARC forms an external expert commission (hereinafter referred to as EEC), which is approved by the director of IARC to conduct an assessment of the HEI. It includes representatives of the academic community, employers and students of the Kyrgyz Republic.

5.8. In case of continuation of accreditation, IARC will agree with the educational organization on the timing of the institutional accreditation and the Program of the EEC visit.

5.9. The duration of the commission's visit is usually 2-3 days. During the visit, the educational institution creates conditions for the work of the EEC in accordance with the Agreement on the provision of services:

- provides each member of the commission with an electronic and paper version of the self-assessment report;
- provides the necessary office equipment to the EEC members;
- organizes an inspection of the infrastructure and resources, meetings, questionnaires, interviews and other types of work of the EEC in accordance with the EEC Visit Program;
- provides the requested information;
- organizes photo and video filming of the EEC work;
- at the end of the visit, prepares a video about the work of the EEC, confirming the implementation of the planned events;
- presents a presentation containing information about the activities of the HEI.

5.10. At the end of the visit, the external expert commission prepares a report on the evaluation of the HEI and a presentation on the progress of the EEC visit. The educational organization prepares a presentation/video for the AC meeting containing a brief description of the educational organization and information on the progress of the EEC visit.

5.11. The report contains a description of the EEC visit, a brief assessment of the compliance of the HEI activities in terms of the criteria of IARC standards,

recommendations to the HEI to improve its activities and ensure quality, and recommendations to the Accreditation Council. Proposals to the Accreditation Council contain a recommendation on the status of the HEI (to accredit/not to accredit) and the recommended period of accreditation.

5.12. The report of the EEC, including recommendations, is developed by the members of the EEC collectively.

5.13. The basis for making a decision on institutional accreditation by the Accreditation Council is the report on the evaluation of the HEI by the EEC and the report on the self-assessment of the activities of the educational organization.

5.14. The Chairman of the EEC speaks to the Accreditation Council on the results of the EEC visit. In case of an objective reason, the Director of IARC appoints a member of the EEC to participate with a report at the AC meeting. The replacement of the Chairman of the EEC is formalized by the order of the Director of IARC.

5.15. The exclusive competence of the AC IARC includes making decisions on accreditation or refusal to accredit an educational organization. The composition of the Accreditation Council is determined in accordance with the Regulation on its activities. The meeting is held if a quorum is present. The Accreditation Council has the right to make a reasoned decision that does not correspond to the recommendation of the external expert commission.

The Accreditation Council makes decisions:

- accredit:

- 5 years - subject to compliance with all accreditation standards;
- 3 years - subject to non-compliance with one accreditation standard;
- 1 year - in case of non-compliance with two accreditation standards with

the requirement to eliminate the identified deficiencies and opportunities for their improvement;

- not to accredit - in case of non-compliance with more than two accreditation standards.

5.16. If the Accreditation Council makes a positive decision, IARC sends an official letter with the results of the decision and a certificate of institutional accreditation of the HEI, signed by the Director of IARC, to the educational organization. Then the decision on accreditation of the HEI is sent to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic and posted on the IARC website. The report of the external expert commission is also posted on the website.

After receiving the accreditation certificate, the educational organization posts a self-assessment report on its website.

5.17. If the Accreditation Council makes a negative decision, IARC sends a letter to the educational organization with the decision made.

5.18. The educational organization, in accordance with the established procedure and the Agreement on the provision of services and the Regulation on the Commission for the consideration of appeals and complaints, may

send an appeal to IARC against the decision of the Accreditation Council. In case of doubt about the competence of the external expert commission and representatives of the Agency, or a gross violation committed by members of the external expert commission, the educational organization may send a complaint to IARC.

6. STANDARDS

Standard 1 "Strategic Development and Quality Assurance Policy"

The activities of the HEI are determined by its mission, which reflects the place of the HEI in the educational space. The development strategy of the HEI should provide for the consistent implementation of the policy of ensuring the quality of education. The management system of the HEI is aimed at implementing the vision, mission and strategy.

Evaluation criteria

- 1.1. The HEI must demonstrate the development of a strategy aimed at achieving the mission and meeting the needs of the state, society, sectors of the real economy, potential employers, students and other stakeholders.
- 1.2. The mission and strategy of the HEI undergo public discussion with representatives of all interested parties, and based on their proposals and amendments, the Academic Council of the HEI makes changes to them.
- 1.3. The internal management system operates effectively and contributes to the achievement of the HEI mission.
- 1.4. The HEI complies with the requirements of regulatory legal acts governing educational activities and develops documents on individual areas of activity and processes (plans, programs, provisions, etc.).
- 1.5. The HEI must demonstrate transparency of information about the results of the educational organization's activities.
- 1.6. The HEI takes steps to improve its academic reputation.
- 1.7. The HEI must demonstrate the presence of conditions that ensure a physically and psychologically safe environment.

Standard 2 "Personnel Policy"

The HEI must have confidence in the competence of its administrative, teaching, educational support and junior/technical support staff. The HEI must have fair and transparent processes for the recruitment and professional development of its staff. The HEI must ensure that the qualifications of its teaching staff are consistent with the needs of its educational programmes. The HEI must demonstrate defined, published and consistently applied policies governing all periods of student education, including admission, progress, recognition and certification.

Evaluation criteria

2.1. The HEI must have an objective and transparent personnel policy, including recruitment, professional growth and development of personnel, ensuring the professional competence of the entire staff. It must also demonstrate the policy for forming the contingent of students from admission to graduation and ensure transparency of its procedures.

2.2. The HEI must demonstrate the existence of a system for advanced training, professional and personal development of personnel for the introduction of innovative educational programs and teaching technologies. Creation of conditions for motivating professional and personal development of personnel. Development of academic mobility, involvement of practitioners of relevant industries in teaching. Support for young teachers.

2.3. The HEI must ensure monitoring of the activities of the teaching staff. Organization of various mechanisms for assessing the quality of teaching (student surveys, attendance classes of PTS).

2.4. The HEI must ensure monitoring of PTS satisfaction using special methods. The management of the HEI must respond to PTS requests on various issues.

Standard 3 "Material and information resources"

The HEI must ensure that there is a sufficient number of accessible and relevant learning resources and student support services. The methods by which programs are implemented must encourage students to take an active role in the joint construction of the educational process. The HEI must inform the public about its activities, carried out on the basis of the principles of transparency, openness, involvement and awareness of students, faculty, employers and other stakeholders, their initiative, continuous development and adaptation to changing conditions.

Evaluation criteria

3.1. The HEI must demonstrate compliance of the HEI infrastructure with the specifics of its activities, including the implementation of educational programs and distance learning. Auditoriums, laboratories, communication and computer equipment, training grounds, and technology parks must meet high requirements. The HEI must use a variety of information dissemination methods (including the media, web resources, information networks, websites, etc.) to inform the general public and interested parties.

3.2. The HEI must create the most favorable conditions for students to spend their extracurricular time. The following services must be provided for students: a canteen, a dormitory, a computer center, a library, reading rooms, sports halls, a stadium, a medical center, etc.

3.3. The HEI has mechanisms and indicators for improving material and information resources.

3.4. The HEI must ensure compliance with safety requirements and sanitary and hygienic standards during the educational process.

Standard 4 "Finance"

The HEI demonstrates the degree of implementation of the principles of sustainability, efficiency, effectiveness, priority, transparency, responsibility, delegation of authority, delineation and independence of the HEI financing system. The assessment of financial sustainability is carried out on the basis of an analysis of financial statements (balance sheet, income and expenditure statement), as well as interviews with employees of the accounting and financial analysis service, heads of HEI departments and interested parties.

Evaluation criteria

4.1. The HEI ensures openness and transparency in financial management, budget execution and sound financial planning. The HEI must demonstrate the presence of a formal financial management policy, including financial reporting.

4.2. The HEI must demonstrate that it has undergone an external independent audit.

4.3. The HEI must have a mechanism for assessing the adequacy of financial support for various types of HEI activities, including the HEI development strategy and the development of the main educational program.

4.4. There is a system of social support for staff and students. The basic principles and provisions of this system are documented and available to interested parties, including society as a whole.

Standard 5 "Scientific, methodological and research work"

The HEI must ensure the quality of the main educational program by involving specialists and practitioners, as well as the best foreign and domestic teachers, in teaching related activities, such as scientific and methodological and research work. Focusing on the implementation of research results in the educational process is impossible without creating conditions for conducting scientific research, integrating science into the educational process, and publishing the results of research work by employees and students.

Evaluation criteria

5.1. The HEI conducts scientific research work and uses its results in the educational process, and also monitors the effectiveness of SRW. Students are actively involved in SRW.

5.2. The HEI must demonstrate the compliance of material and information resources with the specifics of the main educational program. Ensures their availability for scientific research.

5.3. Development of scientific research internships, attracting the best foreign and domestic teachers.

5.4. The HEI must demonstrate a system of incentives for the scientific activity of staff and students.

5.5. The HEI is taking steps to increase the publication activity of staff and students in reputable publications.

7 PROCEDURE FOR MAKING CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

7.1. Changes and additions are made to the current accreditation standard for the purpose of its further improvement.

7.2. Changes and additions to the standard are carried out by IARC.

7.3. In case of initiation of changes and additions to the current standards by educational organizations and other interested bodies, suggestions and comments are sent to IARC.

7.4. IARC conducts an expert examination of the received proposals and comments for their validity and expediency in accordance with the established procedure.

7.5. Changes and additions to the current accreditation standard after their approval are approved by order of the director of IARC in a new edition with changes or in the form of a brochure-insert to the current standard.

8. Literature

1. The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Education" dated August 11, 2023 No. 179.
2. The Concept of Education development in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2023.
3. Strategy for the development of education in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2040.
4. Resolution of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "On approval of the Education Development Program in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2040" dated May 4, 2021 No. 200.
5. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic "On approval of regulatory legal acts on accreditation in the field of education" dated May 15, 2024 No. 246.
6. Guide to the use of ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). - Publications Office of the European Union, 2015, ISBN 978-92-79-43562-1 (Approved at the Yerevan Conference of Ministers of Education, 14-15 May 2015).
7. Quality Procedures in the European Higher Education Area and Beyond - Second ENQA Survey, ENQA, 2008, Helsinki.
8. Guide to the use of ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). - Publications Office of the European Union, 2015, ISBN 978-92-79-43562-1 (Approved at the Yerevan Conference of Ministers of Education, 14-15 May 2015).

9. Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) (new edition) (Approved at the Yerevan Conference of Ministers of Education on 14-15 May 2015).
10. General criteria for accreditation of educational programs with degrees in engineering, computer science, architecture, natural sciences, mathematics separately by field or in combination of different specialties, Agency for Accreditation of Educational Programs with Degrees in Engineering, Computer Science/Computer Science, Natural Sciences and Mathematics (ASIIN), Dusseldorf (Germany), 2012, 55 pages.
11. Criteria for accrediting Engineering technology programs, ABET, 2012, Baltimore.
12. Accrediting standards, ACEJMC, 2006.