

GETC ABET Level 4 not a matric

Umalusi, the council for quality assurance in general and further education and training, has recently been inundated with queries from members of the public wanting to know whether the qualification called the General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) for Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) level 4 is an equivalent of the National Senior Certificate (Grade 12).

It is important for the public to understand that the GETC ABET level 4 qualification IS NOT on the same level with the National Senior Certificate.

The confusion has been caused by the designation 'ABET level 4', which is the endpoint of the four sub-levels for ABET, and is regarded as being at Level 1 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

The National Senior Certificate, which is achieved after twelve years of schooling, is at Level 4 of the NQF. The NQF sets the boundaries, principles and guidelines according to which all qualifications offered by South African learning institutions are organised and structured. The NQF has 10 levels and Umalusi is responsible for the quality assurance of qualifications that fall within levels 1-4.

Placed on NQF level 1, the GETC ABET level 4 is on the same level as Grade 9, which is also pegged at NQF level 1. For this reason, the GETC ABET level 4 will not give learners access to higher education (university). In fact, learners who wish to pursue higher education, after completing a GETC ABET level 4 will have to study further. Umalusi regards the GETC ABET level 4 qualification as an important qualification that was developed to meet the needs of adult learners in South Africa. To allow further progression for adults, Umalusi is working with the Departments of Education to develop a number of pathways for adults to achieve other qualifications on NQF Levels 2-4.

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