

Open letter to adult learners who have registered for the GETC: ABET Level 4

Umalusi, as the Council for General and Further Education and Training, responsible for the GETC: ABET Level 4, has become aware of the general confusion with regards to the GETC: ABET Level 4. This open letter is addressed to the general public, the adult learners that are enrolled for the GETC: ABET Level 4 and those adult learners who still wish to achieve a matric qualification.

The letter is intended to explain the differences between GETC: ABET Level 4 which is not a matric qualification and qualifications registered at level 4 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). NQF level 4 is the level at which matric qualifications (Senior Certificate, National Senior Certificate and the National Certificate (Vocational)) are registered on the NQF. The NQF is a register of qualifications.

The GETC: ABET Level 4 is an adult qualification that is registered at Level 1 of the NQF. It is comparable to Grade 9 or the old Standard 7. A person who has successfully passed all the GETC: ABET Level 4 subjects is similar to a person who has passed Grade 9 at school.

There are four levels that lead to the GETC: ABET Level 4 qualification. Below the GETC: ABET Level 4 there are three levels which are:

- ABET level 1
- ABET level 2
- ABET Level 3

These levels are not the NQF levels and should therefore not be confused with NQF levels. They are simply levels within the GETC: ABET Level 4 qualification.

The GETC: ABET levels are compared to the school grades in the table below:

GETC: ABET	School Grades
GETC: ABET Level 4	Grade 9
ABET Level 3	Grade 7- 8
ABET Level 2	Grades 4 - 6
ABET Level 1	Grades 1 - 3

At the moment there are only two qualifications in the system that lead to a 'matric' qualification. The two qualifications are the National Senior Certificate (NSC) and the Senior Certificate (SC). The NSC and the SC qualifications are registered at Level 4 of the NQF. The NSC is a three year qualification offered in schools. School learners get the NSC after successfully completing Grade 10, Grade 11 and Grade 12.

The Senior Certificate is now an adult qualification which is offered to adult learners who have passed all the required SC subjects. The Senior Certificate is offered in Adult Learning Centres to adult learners who are 21 years and older who have

- passed the GETC: ABET Level 4 or who have passed Grade 9; or
- a recognised NQF level 1 qualification with 2 official languages; or
- an incomplete Senior Certificate; or
- an incomplete NSC and whose School-Based Assessment component has expired.

Out of school youth who are 18 – 21 years old who could not complete school due to special situations and could no longer be accommodated longer in the school system as verified by the Provincial Department of Education can also register for the Senior Certificate.

Therefore as Umalusi, we are advising that those adult learners who want to achieve a matric qualification, must register for the Senior Certificate and not for the GETC: ABET Level 4 which is **not** a matric.

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