

COMPLETE SECONDARY EDUCATION

The senior school (10th-11th years) is the final stage in acquiring a complete general secondary education, which forms a holistic world view. Senior school graduates have developed learning and communication skills, the ability to get information from various sources and process it on their own, and the ability to apply the acquired knowledge in everyday life.

Duration. The schooling in the senior school takes 2 years. A complete secondary education may be acquired in general and specialized secondary schools, boarding schools, lyceums, gymnasiums, colleges, and other institutions of general secondary education of the III grade. A complete secondary education may also be obtained in a vocational educational institution, or institution of higher learning of the I-II accreditation levels.

Senior schools provide primarily a specialized education. The specialization of a pupil is determined on the basis of his or her preferred areas of study, available personnel and resources of the school, as well as the social-cultural and production environment and further educational prospects available for school graduates. The specialization-oriented study of a number of subjects ensures a proper level of training for school graduates sufficient for the enrollment in institutions of higher learning. Depending on the operating conditions of a specific general educational institution, the specialization-oriented teaching may be implemented on an institution-wide scale and within individual classes or pupil groups alike.

The educational content and study requirements in the senior school are divided into three levels:

- mandatory study results, which are determined by the state basic and complete secondary educational standard;
- specialization level, whose content is determined in the curricula approved by the Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine;
- academic level, whose curricula focus the areas of study related to the specialization-oriented subjects (for example, physics in the chemistry-biology specialization area).

Pupils who are yet to make up their mind as regards their future specialization receive general (comprehensive) training.

Knowledge assessment. Knowledge in the senior school is measured on a 12-point scale.

The annual study load in a senior school is determined by the basic curriculum, standard curricula, working curricula of general educational institutions and so on. The basic curriculum of institutions of general education of the II-III accreditation levels is divided into invariable and variable components.

Compliance of the educational level of pupils with the educational quality standards is established through state final examinations. The content, forms, procedure, and schedule of such annual examinations are determined on an annual basis and approved by the Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine.

Graduation. Pupils who have finished the 11th year of study (senior school) and acquired a complete general secondary education are school graduates. As a rule, school graduates are in the age of 16-17 years.

Pupils who have finished the 11th year of study and passed the final state examinations receive a certificate of complete general secondary education and supplement to it specifying the scores earned for educational achievements. For excellent academic achievements, graduates are awarded certificates of basic general secondary education with distinction.

Graduates who have high academic results are awarded the gold medal “For High Academic Achievements” or the silver medal “For Academic Achievements” and receive a certificate of complete general secondary education with distinction. This certificate comes with a supplement specifying the scores earned for educational achievements. Graduates of the 11th grade who fail the examination in at least one subject receive school report cards in which the mark of “failed” is placed against each such subject. Secondary school graduates are required to pass the independent external knowledge assessment test in the subjects required for the enrollment in a chosen institution of higher learning. This higher educational institution may change the list of such subjects following its enrollment requirements.

School graduates with a complete general secondary education have the right to apply for enrollment in any institution of higher learning.