

GENERAL UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA

The Finnish National Board of Education has developed optional upper secondary school diplomas for students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge of home economics, visual arts, crafts, physical education, media, music, dance and theatre. General upper secondary school diplomas complement the skills and knowledge the students have acquired and demonstrated in general upper secondary school leaving certificate and matriculation examination.

There are eight general upper secondary school diplomas students may complete to demonstrate their skills and commitment to the subject. In some subjects, diploma assignments change annually and are available to schools by the end of spring.

The Finnish National Board of Education has confirmed national guidelines for passing general upper secondary school diplomas. The guidelines include instructions on taking a diploma as well as assessment criteria and diploma format.

Implementation of a diploma at a general upper secondary school

Implementation of diploma courses is voluntary for general upper secondary school. Schools can decide whether or not they offer diploma courses. Diploma courses available for students must be specified in the upper secondary school's curriculum. General upper secondary school diplomas can be part of applied courses in the curriculum. Instructions and assessment criteria for a particular diploma must be followed with each diploma course. General upper secondary schools are responsible for following the national guidelines when giving students the certificate.

Taking a general upper secondary school diploma

Taking a general upper secondary school diploma is voluntary and free of charge apart from possible material costs.

General upper secondary school diploma assessment

Diploma performance is assessed by a general upper secondary school teacher. In addition, there is another examiner who is an expert in the subject. Students are always given a grade for their performance using the scale from 1 to 5 as follows: 5 = excellent, 4 = very good, 3 = good, 2 = satisfactory and 1 = adequate.

General upper secondary school diploma certificate

General upper secondary school diploma certificate is given by the general upper secondary school and is an appendix to the general upper secondary school leaving certificate. Upper secondary schools use the certificate layout issued by The Finnish National Board of Education.

[Sample front page of the certificate](#)

[Sample reverse side of the certificate](#)

General upper secondary school diploma in a nutshell

General upper secondary school diploma in visual arts, music, crafts, dance, theatre, physical education, home economics and media

- Guidelines and the instructions for the General Upper Secondary School Diploma are issued by The Finnish National Board of Education
- General upper secondary school diploma certificate is an additional proof of skills and an appendix to the upper secondary school leaving certificate
- The diploma can be completed in 8 subjects: visual arts, physical education, theatre, dance, music, crafts, home economics, media
- The implementation of a general upper secondary school diploma course is optional for upper secondary schools and completing the diploma is non-compulsory for students
- The average number of lesson hours for a general upper secondary school diploma course is 38 hours
- The diplomas are completed according to the instructions of The Finnish National Board of Education
- Assessment is based on the objectives and criteria defined in the instructions
- The scale of grades used in numerical assessment is 1–5: Grade 1 indicates adequate, 2 satisfactory, 3 good, 4 very good and 5 excellent
- Some educational institutions in Finland accept general upper secondary school diplomas as part of their entrance requirements

General upper secondary school diploma in [Finnish](#) and [Swedish](#) (EDU.fi)