



University Grants Commission

COMMISSION CIRCULAR NO: 12/2024

No.20, Ward Place,
Colombo-07
11th October 2024

Vice Chancellors of Universities
Rectors of Campuses
Directors of Institutes

**Guidance of the Grading system of Degree programmes offered under
Technology Stream**

The University Grants Commission at its 1130th meeting held on 08th August 2024, approved the report on "Guidance of the Grading system of Degree programmes offered under Technology Stream" which is an improved version of the guidance approved by the Commission at its 984th meeting held on 13th August 2018.

Accordingly, you are requested to adopt the attached amended Guidance on Evaluation of Performance for Technology degree programmes applicable for students enrolled from 2022/2023 batch onwards in order to maintain consistency among the Technology Faculties of different universities. .

Please take action accordingly with immediate effect.


Senior Professor Sampath Amaratunge
Chairman

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Guidance on Evaluation of Performance of Technology Degree Programmes

The following Guidance on Evaluation of Performance of Technology Degree programmes, as approved by the Commission at its 1130th meeting held on 8th August 2024 is applicable for technology students enrolled from 2022/23 batch onwards. Students enrolled prior to 2022/23 batch are evaluated according to the Guidance on Evaluation of Performance approved by the Commission at its 984th meeting held on 13th August 2018.

1. Introduction

National Universities under the purview of the University Grants Commission established degree programmes for students progressing from the GCE Advanced Level Technology Stream commencing in the Academic Year 2015/16. The degree programmes are at SLQF Level 6 and are expected to satisfy relevant Professional Body standards. As such, in order to maintain the consistency of qualification across the Technology Faculties, the Commission at its 984th meeting held on 13th August 2018 adopted the Guidance on Evaluation of Performance of Technology degree programmes, on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Technology Stream.

It was brought to the notice of the Standing Committee that significant number of students could not satisfy the progressing criteria in some universities. The matter was studied in depth by a sub-committee appointed by the Standing Committee in the light of university and professional body requirements. Based on the sub-committee report, the Standing Committee recommended the Commission to amend Clauses 2a, 2c and 2d.

The Commission at its 1130th meeting held on 08th August 2024 approved to adopt the following amended Guidance on Evaluation of Performance for Technology degree programmes applicable for students enrolled from 2022/23 batch onwards.

2. Grades and Grade Point Values

a) Grades, Grade Point Values and the Descriptions are as follows;

| Grade | Grade Point | Description |
|-------|-------------|------------------|
| A+ | 4.0 | Excellent |
| A | 4.0 | |
| A- | 3.7 | |
| B+ | 3.3 | Good |
| B | 3.0 | |
| B- | 2.7 | |
| C+ | 2.3 | Pass |
| C | 2.0 | |
| C- | 1.7 | Weak Pass |
| D | 1.3 | Conditional Pass |
| E | 0.0 | Fail |

Note: In order to earn grade D or above, student must score more than the minimum prescribed marks for both Continuous Assessment (CA) and End Semester Assessment (ESA). If the assessment is only by CA, minimum prescribed mark for CA will apply.

b) References to indicate the status when a module is not completed

Following or similar references may be used to indicate the status when a student has not completed a module. This is for record keeping of the university and for the information of the students.

| Reference | Grade Point | Description |
|------------|-------------|---|
| E(CA& ESA) | 0.0 | Both CA and ESA marks are below the prescribed minimum. Incomplete CA and ESA |
| E (CA) | 0.0 | CA mark is below the prescribed minimum. Incomplete CA |
| E (ESA) | 0.0 | ESA mark is below the prescribed minimum. Incomplete ESA |
| N | - | Academic concession |
| W | - | Withdrawn |

c) Percentage marks ranges

Percentage marks ranges for the purpose of reference are as follows;

| Percentage Marks for reference | Grade |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 85 and above | A+ |
| 75 to 84 | A |
| 70 to 74 | A- |
| 65 to 69 | B+ |
| 60 to 64 | B |
| 55 to 59 | B- |
| 50 to 54 | C+ |
| 45 to 49 | C |
| 40 to 44 | C- |
| 35 to 39 | D |
| 0 to 34 | E |

Note: Percentage marks ranges given above are for the guidelines of the Examiner. Marks ranges for a particular module may be decided by the Moderator, in consultation with the Examiner, based on the marks distribution and taking the above reference marks ranges into consideration. Marks ranges adopted for a particular module must be declared to the Board of Examiners.

d) Pass/Fail criteria

- i. Percentage pass mark for the CA is equivalent to the minimum mark assigned for Grade C- and that for ESA is equivalent to the minimum mark assigned for Grade D. (*Proportion of marks allocated for CA and ESA must be approved by the university. It is recommended to adopt 30% for CA and 70% for ESA for theory oriented modules and 40% for CA and 60% for ESA for practically oriented modules. There may be modules with higher percentage for CA or assessed entirely by CA*)
- ii. Grade D or above is required to earn credit value for a module.
- iii. Student failing in CA, ESA or both CA and ESA must repeat respective components.
- iv. Grades C-, D or E, which can be improved to a Grade C, are considered for calculating Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA).
- v. Student is considered to have completed a semester successfully only if he/she has achieved a SGPA of 2.00 or above, and has, in that semester no E grade and no more than three grades at the levels of C- or D.
- vi. In repeat attempts, all E and D grades should be improved to C- or C, and improve grade C- to C if necessary, and achieve a SGPA of 2.00 or above.
- vii. All modules for which the student has registered for the semester, except non-GPA modules, will be counted in calculating the SGPA.

e) Criteria for English Language modules

Paragraph 5.1.3.(c) of the Sydney Accord Accreditation Manual specify minimum 15 credits in the category of studies in Management, Engineering Economics and Communication. Communication modules are for the development of student's capability to effectively communicate both orally and in writing, specially the concise reporting skills. If English Language modules are offered in addition to the Communication modules, two options can be considered in evaluating the performance of those modules.

Option 1 – If the credits allocated to those English Language modules are within 120 credits considered for the degree, normal pass/fail criteria applicable to other compulsory modules will apply. However, credits allocated to English Language modules must be non-GPA credits.

Option 2 – If the credits allocated to those English Language modules are over and above 120 credits, normal pass/fail criteria or special criteria that require the student to pass those modules but not counted towards credits can apply. In any event, passing of those English Language modules (minimum D) is a requirement to earn the degree.

3. Semester Grade Point Average

The calculation of the Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA) will be based on the summation of Grade Points earned for all GPA modules registered (except those awarded with academic concession or withdrawn) in a semester weighted according to number of credits as per the following formula, where C_i is the number of credits for the i th module in a given semester and GP_i is the grade points earned for that module and n is the number of GPA modules in the semester.

$$SGPA = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n C_i GP_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n C_i}$$

Note: It must be noted that weightage for Continuous Assessment may vary depending on the module and therefore, fixed weightages must not be brought into the SGPA calculation equation. Industrial Training should be allocated GPA credits.

4. Academic Progression

A student who has not earned a cumulative GPA of first three semesters of 2.0 or above will not be permitted to register for the fifth semester until the cumulative GPA of the first three semesters are improved as required.

5. Cumulative Grade Point Average

The Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) describes a student's current standing in terms of grade points earned for all GPA modules registered up to a given point of time (except those awarded with academic concession or withdrawn) weighted according to number of credits as per the following formula, where C_i is the number of credits for the i th module and GP_i is the grade points earned for that module and n is the total number of registered GPA modules.

$$CGPA = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n C_i GP_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n C_i}$$

Note: The weightage for each semester is taken as uniform for the calculation of CGPA. All semesters must be successfully completed for the award of the degree.

6. Cut-off levels of CGPA for awarding Classes/Pass

| Class/Pass | CGPA |
|----------------------|------|
| First Class | 3.70 |
| Second Class (Upper) | 3.30 |
| Second Class (Lower) | 3.00 |
| Pass | 2.00 |

All requirements for the award of the degree must be completed in four academic years to earn a Class.

7. Maximum period for the completion of the degree

The maximum period for the completion of all requirements for the award of the degree is recommended to be 06 academic years. The Senate of the university may grant one academic year at a time, beyond initial 06 academic years, based on the merit of individual applications, for a maximum of 03 years.