

21. GRADING

21.1 Assessment grades shall be awarded on a criterion-referenced basis. A student's overall performance in a subject (including GUR subjects) shall be graded as follows:

| Subject grade | Short description | Elaboration on subject grading description |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| A+ | Exceptionally Outstanding | The student's work is exceptionally outstanding. It exceeds the intended subject learning outcomes in all regards. |
| A | Outstanding | The student's work is outstanding. It exceeds the intended subject learning outcomes in nearly all regards. |
| B+ | Very Good | The student's work is very good. It exceeds the intended subject learning outcomes in most regards. |
| B | Good | The student's work is good. It exceeds the intended subject learning outcomes in some regards. |
| C+ | Wholly Satisfactory | The student's work is wholly satisfactory. It fully meets the intended subject learning outcomes. |
| C | Satisfactory | The student's work is satisfactory. It largely meets the intended subject learning outcomes. |
| D+ | Barely Satisfactory | The student's work is barely satisfactory. It marginally meets the intended subject learning outcomes. |
| D | Barely Adequate | The student's work is barely adequate. It meets the intended subject learning outcomes only in some regards. |
| F | Inadequate | The student's work is inadequate. It fails to meet many of the intended subject learning outcomes. |

'F' is a subject failure grade, whilst all others ('D' to 'A+') are subject passing grades. No credit will be earned if a subject is failed.

21.2 A numeral grade point is assigned to each subject grade, as follows:

| Grade | Grade Point |
|--------------|--------------------|
| A+ | 4.5 |
| A | 4 |
| B+ | 3.5 |
| B | 3 |
| C+ | 2.5 |
| C | 2 |
| D+ | 1.5 |
| D | 1 |
| F | 0 |

21.3 At the end of each semester, a Grade Point Average (GPA) will be computed based on the grade point of all the subjects as follows:

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{\sum_n \text{Subject Grade Point} \times \text{Subject Credit Value}}{\sum_n \text{Subject Credit Value}}$$

where n = number of subjects (inclusive of failed subjects) taken by the student up to and including the latest semester. For subjects which have been retaken, only the grade point obtained in the final attempt will be included in the GPA calculation.

In addition, the following subjects will be excluded from the GPA calculation:

- (i) Exempted subjects
- (ii) Ungraded subjects
- (iii) Incomplete subjects
- (iv) Subjects for which credit transfer has been approved, but without any grade assigned (Subjects taken in PolyU or elsewhere and with grades assigned, and for which credit transfer has been approved, will be included in the GPA calculation.)
- (v) Subjects from which a student has been allowed to withdraw (i.e. those with the code 'W')

Subject which has been given an 'S' code, i.e. absent from assessment, will be included in the GPA calculation and will be counted as 'zero' grade point. GPA is thus the unweighted cumulative average calculated for a student, for all relevant subjects taken from the start

of the programme to a particular point of time. GPA is an indicator of overall performance, and is capped at 4.0.

21.4 Different types of GPA's

21.4.1 GPA's will be calculated for each Semester including the Summer Term. This Semester GPA will be used to determine students' eligibility to progress to the next Semester alongside with the 'cumulative GPA'. However, the Semester GPA calculated for the Summer Term will not be used for this purpose, unless the Summer Term study is mandatory for all students of the programme concerned and constitutes part of the graduation requirements.

21.4.2 The GPA calculated after the second Semester of the students' study is therefore a 'cumulative' GPA of all the subjects taken so far by students, and without applying any level weighting.

21.4.3 Along with the 'cumulative' GPA, a weighted GPA will also be calculated, to give an indication to the Board of Examiners on the award classification a student will likely get if he/she makes steady progress on his/her academic studies. GUR subjects will be included in the calculation of weighted GPA for all programmes.

21.4.4 When a student has satisfied the requirements for award, an award GPA will be calculated to determine his/her award classification. GUR subjects will be included in the calculation of award GPA for all programmes.

21.4.5 The relationship between the different types of GPA's, and the methods for calculating each, is further explained in Appendix 1.