

# THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

## Grade Point Average Regulations

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2014

**Please Note: These Regulations are subject to change and as such all interested parties will be given due notice of any changes.**

1. These Regulations will apply to all new students entering the system in August 2014 to pursue first degrees, associate degrees, diplomas and certificates. These Regulations will also apply to all other students, who entered the system prior to the 2014/2015 academic year, to pursue first degrees, associate degrees, diplomas and certificates except for those students in the Faculty of Engineering. Students in the Faculty of Engineering who entered a programme prior to academic year 2014/15 will be governed by the GPA regulations dated 2011 until the end of the academic year 2015/16.
2. In order to be eligible for the award of a First Degree, all students shall have a minimum GPA of 2.00.
- 3.(i) For purposes of these Regulations, the following meanings shall apply, except where the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) CREDIT HOURS EARNED  

‘Credit hours earned’ means the credits for each course that count toward the degree requirement and for which a passing grade is obtained.
  - (b) QUALITY HOURS  

‘Quality hours’ means the credits for each course that is included in the GPA calculation. Quality hours shall be assigned even when a grade of F1, F2 or F3 is obtained in a course. Courses that are not counted in the determination of the GPA shall be assigned zero quality hours.
  - (c) QUALITY POINTS:  

‘Quality points’ means the numerical value assigned to the relevant letter grade earned.
- (ii) For the purposes of these Regulations:
  - (a) LEVEL I, II AND III COURSES:

Levels I, II and III courses are courses so designated by the Board for Undergraduate Studies.

(b) GRADE POINTS:

Grade points are determined by multiplying the quality hours by the quality points for a course.

(c) GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Grade Point Average is the average obtained by dividing the total grade points earned by the total quality hours for which the student has registered for any stated period of time, excluding courses taken on a pass/fail basis, audited courses, preliminary courses, not for credit courses and courses for which the designation I or IP is awarded under Regulation 6(iv).

(d) WEIGHTED GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Weighted Grade Point Average is the average determined by applying appropriate weights for Levels I, II, and III courses to the grade points and the quality hours used in determining grade point average as set out at Regulation 3(ii)(c) above.

(e) CREDIT HOURS

The credit values for courses, as well as for projects, laboratory sessions, foreign language classes or other contact hours, shall be determined by the respective Faculty Board and approved by the Board for Undergraduate Studies or in the case of the Open Campus, recommended by Academic Board and approved by the Board for Undergraduate Studies.

4. (i) The class of degree shall be awarded on the basis of the Weighted GPA as set out in these Regulations.
  - (ii) In determining the Weighted GPA, the weights to be used for each Level I, II and III course shall be as prescribed in Faculty Regulations.
  - (iii) Except for the purpose of determining the class of degree the term GPA in these Regulations shall mean the GPA as defined at Regulation 3(ii)(c) above.
5. First Degrees awarded by the University except as stated in sub-clauses i and ii are as follows:

|                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| First Class Honours        | (Weighted (GPA 3.60 and Above) |
| Upper Second Class Honours | (Weighted GPA 3.00 – 3.59)     |
| Lower Second Class Honours | (Weighted GPA 2.50– 2.99)      |
| Pass                       | (Weighted GPA 2.00-2.49)       |

(i) The degree of Bachelor of Medical Sciences shall be classified as follows:

Distinction GPA 3.70 AND ABOVE

Honours GPA 3.30 – 3.69

Pass GPA 2.00 – 3.29

(ii) The Degrees of MBBS, DDS and DVM shall be classified as follows:

Distinction

Honours

Pass

6. (i) In the determination of GPA, the defined grades with the corresponding quality points shall be:

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| <b>A+</b> | <b>4.30</b> |
| <b>A</b>  | <b>4.00</b> |
| <b>A-</b> | <b>3.70</b> |
| <b>B+</b> | <b>3.30</b> |
| <b>B</b>  | <b>3.00</b> |
| <b>B-</b> | <b>2.70</b> |
| <b>C+</b> | <b>2.30</b> |
| <b>C</b>  | <b>2.00</b> |
| <b>F1</b> | <b>1.70</b> |
| <b>F2</b> | <b>1.30</b> |
| <b>F3</b> | <b>0.00</b> |

(ii) The following designations may be assigned, but shall not be used in the calculation of Grade Point Average:

AB: Absent for acceptable reasons other than a medical problem

- AM: Absent Medical
- CR: Credit
- DB: Debarred
- DEF: Deferred
- EC: Exemption with credit
- EQ: Examination Query
- EX: Exemption
- FM: Failed Medical – where failure in an examination is attributed to medical reasons as supported by a certificate from an authorized medical practitioner
- I: Incomplete - indicates that the student has made progress in a course but at the end of the semester has not finished the work required to receive a letter grade. An I designation is not counted in credit hours earned, or quality hours until a letter grade is reported. If neither a letter grade nor notification of an extension of time is received by the Registry from the Office of Dean, the I designation is replaced by an F3 grade at the end of the first six weeks into the next semester. An extension of time may be granted but shall not normally extend beyond the end of the semester in which the extension is granted. Any remaining I symbol at the end of the period of extension will be deemed an F3.
- IM: Incomplete Medical
- IP: In Progress - when a dissertation, thesis, project, student teaching, practicum, internship, proficiency requirement, or other course intended to last more than one semester is not completed during the semester in which the student is registered. The IP designation must be replaced with an appropriate grade on completion of the course.
- LW: Late Withdrawal
- NFC: Not for credit
- NP: Not Passed – when a student has failed a course taken on a pass/fail basis.
- NR: Not Reported – when a lecturer fails to submit grades by the published deadline, through no fault of the student.
- NV: When a student has been permitted to audit a course but has not done so satisfactorily.
- P: Pass – a pass obtained in a course taken on a Pass/Fail basis.
- PC: Preliminary Credits – used for matriculation purposes or the satisfying of prerequisites only.
- V: Audited – when the course has been taken in accordance with Regulation 13

(v) The following designations may be assigned and shall count towards the GPA:

- DIS: Disqualified

- EI: Examination Irregularity – Candidate disqualified from examination on account of breach of the Regulations
- FA: When a student is absent from an examination without a valid reason
- FC: Failed Coursework – indicates that a candidate has failed to satisfy the Examiner in the coursework component of the course.
- FE: Failed Examination – when a candidate has successfully completed the coursework requirement but has failed to satisfy the Examiners in the examination component of the course
- FO: Failed Oral (where an oral examination forms part of the assessment of the course)
- FP: Failed Practical
- FT: Failed Theory

7. The scheme to be used for conversion of numerical marks to letter grades shall as follows:

GRADE GPA/ MARKS %

|    |        |
|----|--------|
| A+ | 90-100 |
| A  | 80-89  |
| A- | 75-79  |
| B+ | 70-74  |
| B  | 65-69  |
| B- | 60-64  |
| C+ | 55-59  |
| C  | 50-54  |
| F1 | 45-49  |
| F2 | 40-44  |
| F3 | 0-39   |

8. The courses to be used for the purpose of determining the Weighted GPA for the class of degree to be awarded shall be as prescribed in Faculty Regulations.
9. Where a course has been repeated, the penalty to be applied for failure, and the grade to be used in the computation of the student's GPA if the course is subsequently passed, shall be as prescribed in Faculty Regulations.
10. (i) Where credit for a course taken at another institution is requested, it is the student's responsibility to provide all the information needed by the University to enable it to assess the course.
- (ii) Credit hours earned from another institution at the time of admission to the University of the West Indies will not be used in the computation of a grade point average.

11. (i) A UWI student who wishes to take academic courses elsewhere and apply those credits toward the UWI degree must obtain approval in advance from the relevant Academic Board on the recommendation of the Board of the Faculty in which he/she is registered.
- (ii) Only the grade equivalent as determined by the Board for Undergraduate Studies of the results achieved and not the marks or grades so earned at another institution shall be used in the computation of such student's GPA.
12. (i) Except where otherwise prescribed in Faculty Regulations, a student whose GPA for a given semester is less than 2.00 shall be deemed to be performing unsatisfactorily, and shall be placed on warning. A student on warning whose GPA for the succeeding semester is less than or equal to 1.99, will be required to withdraw. However, a student may be reinstated if his/her GPA improves beyond 1.99 in Semester 2 by credits obtained in Summer School.
- (ii) Except for the students in the Faculty of Engineering, students who entered a programme prior to the academic year 2014/2015 and who have a GPA of less than 2.00 may be given leave by their Faculty to continue into the academic year 2014/2015<sup>1</sup>.

June 24, 2014

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<sup>1</sup> The appropriate mechanism for giving effect to this provision is to be determined.