THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA
QUALITY ASSURANCE DIRECTORATE

CREDIT ACCUMULATION, GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND DEGREE CLASSIFICATION

1.   CREDIT ACCUMULATION

A **course credit** (CC) is a numerical value that represents the estimated time needed for a learner to achieve required specific learning outcomes of a course. One credit is equivalent to 10 notional hours of study (including lectures, seminars, tutorials, assignments, practical training and independent study). For example, a half course of 150 notional hours is worth 15 course credits while and a full course of 300 notional hours is worth 30 course credits. A full academic year is generally worth 120 credits. Note that courses may have different credits from the two examples given, depending on the course structure. Please refer to the publication "*Course Credits*" available from the Directorate of Quality Assurance for more details on course credits.

Credit accumulation is used to monitor, record and reward passage through a programme of study at the University of Zambia. A students who passes a course will earn the credits of that course. The total number of credits accumulated is the summation of all credits from the courses that the student has passed during their study at the University. A student who passes all courses in an academic year will accumulate about 120 credits in most programmes at the University. A typical four-year degree programme will have 480 credits; a typical five-year degree programme has 600 credits; etc., and generally students need to accumulate this minimum number of credits to be able to graduate from the programme.

2.   GRADE POINT VALUES

The **grade point value** (GPV) is used by the University to allocate points to various grades awarded after a course assessment. The GPV represents numerically a student's standard of performance. Repeated courses are do not count toward the earned points required for classification of degrees.   Table 1 shows the typical GPVs for various grades awarded.

Table 1: Grade point values for various grades

TYPE	GRADE	GRADE-POINT VALUE (GPV)	DESCRIPTION
PASS GRADES	A+	5.00	Distinction
	A	4.00	Distinction
	B+	3.50	Meritorious
	B	3.00	Credit
	C+	2.37	Credit
	C	1.00	Pass
	S	1.00	Satisfactory
FAIL GRADES	D+	0.00	Fail
	D	0.00	Fail
	LT	0.00	Fail (Left without permission)
	NE	0.00	Fail (Not examined)
TEMPORARY GRADES	DF	0.00	Deferred examination
	WP	0.00	Left with permission)
	IN	0.00	Incomplete assessment

3.   GRADE POINT AVERAGE

A **grade point average** (GPA) is a number representing the average value of the accumulated grades earned in courses in one academic year and over the full length of the programme of study.

For a given study period, e.g. an academic year, a student's GPA is calculated using the following steps:
(a)   calculate the product of the course credits and the grade-point values earned in each course (i.e. CCs x GPV);
(b)   obtain the sum of the products calculated in (a), (i.e. $\sum$(CCs x GPV);
(c)   calculate the maximum course credits that a student may accumulate in the study period under consideration (TCs); and
(d)   calculate the GPA by using the following formula:

$$GPA = \frac{\sum(CCs \ x \ GPV)}{TCs}$$

GPA =   Grade-point average
CCs =   Course credits for each course taken by the student
GPV =   Grade-point value earned for course taken by the student
TCs =   Total course credits that may be accumulated over the study period by the student

4.   CLASSICATION OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

An undergraduate or bachelor's degree at the University of Zambia is classified on the basis of the overall Grade Point Average computed from all the courses taken by a student in a given programme of study.

It should be noted that when a student passes a repeated course, the credits are earned and are added to the credits accumulated. However, the grade point value for a repeated course is equal to zero and therefore it does not contribute to the GPA and any classification of the qualification attained.

Class boundaries approved by the University Senate are used for the purposes of the classification of bachelor's degrees and are given in Table 2.

Table 2: Degree classes based on overall grade point averages

Final Grade Point Average (GPA)	Degree Class
>= 3.75	Distinction
3.25-3.74	Merit
2.68 - 3.24	Credit
< 2.68	Pass

Typical computations of the GPA for each year of study (YOS) and the overall GPA used in degree classification are shown as a template in Figure 1.   The typical results transcript is shown in the template given in Figure 2.

TEMPLATE: GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

COMP #	NAME, YEAR	PROGRAMME	COURSES									COMMENT	CREDIT ACCUMULATION	GPA
			Course1	Course2	Course3	Course4	Course5	Course6	Course7	Course8	Course9			
0	NAME OF STUDENT													
	YOS1	PROG.	PHY1010	MAT1100	CHE1000	BIO1412	BIO1401					CLEAR PASS		
			B+	B+	C+	B	B						120	3.09
		CCs	30	30	30	15	15							
		CCs*GPV	105	105	71.1	45	45						371.1	
	YOS2	PROG.	MEC2309	MEC2009	MAT2110	ENG2159	ENG2139	ENG2129	EEE2019	CEE2219		TO PART-TIME		
			C	D+	C	C	C	S	C+	C			120	1.04
		CCs	15	15	30	15	15	15	15	15				
		CCs*GPV	15	0	30	15	15	15	35.55	15			140.55	
	YOS2	PROG.	MEC2009									TO FULL-TIME		
			C+										15	0.00
		CCs	15											
		CCs*GPV	0										0	
	YOS3	PROG.	MEC3401	MEC3351	MAT3110	CEE3311	AGG3811	AGC3135	AGA3335	AEN3412		CLEAR PASS		
			C+	C+	C+	C+	B	B+	C+	B+			120	2.73
		CCs	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15				
		CCs*GPV	35.55	35.55	35.55	35.55	45	52.5	35.55	52.5			327.75	
	YOS4	PROG.	MAT4119	GEE4812	ENG4143	ENG4129	CEE4311	AEN4612	AEN4512	AEN4311		CLEAR PASS		
			C	B	C	B	C	S	C+	B+			120	1.98
		CCs	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15				
		CCs*GPV	15	45	15	45	15	15	35.55	52.5			238.05	
														706.35
													OVERALL GPA:	1.47
													CLASSIFICATION:	PASS

Figure 1: Template for computation of year of study and overall GPA, and degree classification

TEMPLATE: TRANSCRIPT

COMP #	NAME, YEAR	PROGRAMME	COURSES									COMMENT	CREDIT ACCUMULATION	GPA
			Course1	Course2	Course3	Course4	Course5	Course6	Course7	Course8	Course9			
0	NAME OF STUDENT													
	YOS1	PROG.	PHY1010	MAT1100	CHE1000	BIO1412	BIO1401					CLEAR PASS		
			B+	B+	C+	B	B						120	3.09
	YOS2	PROG.	MEC2309	MEC2009	MAT2110	ENG2159	ENG2139	ENG2129	EEE2019	CEE2219		TO PART-TIME		
			C	D+	C	C	C	S	C+	C			120	1.04
	YOS2	PROG.	MEC2009									TO FULL-TIME		
			C+										15	0.00
	YOS3	PROG.	MEC3401	MEC3351	MAT3110	CEE3311	AGG3811	AGC3135	AGA3335	AEN3412		CLEAR PASS		
			C+	C+	C+	C+	B	B+	C+	B+			120	2.73
	YOS4	PROG.	MAT4119	GEE4812	ENG4143	ENG4129	CEE4311	AEN4612	AEN4512	AEN4311		NO COMMENT		
			C	B	C	B	C	S	C+	B+			120	1.98
												OVERALL GPA:		2.24
												CLASSIFICATION:		PASS

Figure 2: Template for results transcript

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