GUIDE 2.0 Understanding GPA Grading System

Understanding Module Grades

TU Dublin uses Alphanumeric or Pass/Fail grade to determine the final grade achieved in a module. A numerical scale in percentage is used to grade each assessment component, the aggregate result for the module, i.e., the overall percentage achieved is then converted to an Alpha Grade. The default pass mark for a module is 40%, unless appropriate derogation has been approved for a programme and stated in the module descriptor in the Programme and Module Catalogue (PMC).

Table G2.1: Alphanumeric Grade Bands and Equivalent Percentage Grade Bands for Modules with 40% Pass Mark.

Alpha Grade	Grade Band, % Mark	Description of Achievement/Performance See Grade Point Average Scheme for granulated description of the expected learner achievement for each grade band.
A1	80 - 100	Outstanding
A2	75 - 79	Excellent
A3	70 - 74	Really Good
B1	65 - 69	Very Good
B2	60 - 64	Good
B3	55 - 59	Competent
C1	50 - 54	Satisfactory
C2	45 - 49	Acceptable
C3	40 - 44	Minimally Acceptable
D	35 - 39	Weak (Compensatory Pass Grade)
DF	35 - 39	*Fail:* Compensation Rule Unmet OR Compensation not allowed for module. (*Approved derogation required for latter*).
F	≤34	Fail: All F grades must be retaken.
PS	≥40	*Pass:* Not used in GPA Calculation in Pass/Fail Module
FL	0-39	*Fail:* Not used in GPA Calculation in Pass/Fail Module All FL grades must be retaken.
DEF		Deferred Assessment Grade
EXEMPT		Exempted Assessment Grade
WH		Withheld Assessment Grade

Table G2.2: Alphanumeric Grade Bands and Equivalent Percentage Grade Bands for Modules with 50% Pass Mark.

Alpha Grade	Grade Band, % Mark	Description of Achievement/Performance See Grade Point Average Scheme for granulated description of the expected learner achievement for each grade band.
A1	80 - 100	Outstanding
A2	75 - 79	Excellent
A3	70 - 74	Really Good
B1	65 - 69	Very Good
B2	60 - 64	Good
B3	55 - 59	Competent
C	50 - 54	Satisfactory
D	45 - 49	Weak (Compensatory Pass Grade)
DF	45 - 49	*Fail:* Compensation Rule Unmet OR Compensation not allowed for module. (*Approved derogation required for latter*).
F	≤44	Fail: All F grades must be retaken.
PS	≥50	*Pass:* Not used in GPA Calculation in Pass/Fail Module
FL	0-49	*Fail:* Not used in GPA Calculation in Pass/Fail Module All FL grades must be retaken.
DEF		Deferred Assessment Grade
EXEMPT		Exempted Assessment Grade
WH		Withheld Assessment Grade

Student Academic Standing (Progression Outcome)

The evaluation of a student's academic progress against a predefined curriculum to determine whether the candidate has met the requirements for the stage/award of the programme. Student academic standing is determined by the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits earned and their Grade Point Average (GPA). This evaluation includes modules completed, grades earned, ECTS credits acquired, GPA and any other requirements as specified and approved within the programme descriptor on the PMC and is represented by various Progression Outcome Codes.

Detailed explanation of the student academic standing is covered in Assessment Regulations Implementation Guide 4.0.

Grade Point Average

The Grade Point Average (GPA) system is the preferred system for aggregation of grades awarded to students on completion of learning modules in TU Dublin. Consequently, GPA is used to evaluate learning achievement and to structure student progression in the respective programmes of study, and to determine the classification of awards to graduates. The following section outlines the methods for calculating GPA for different variances of TU Dublin's academic programmes.

Granulated 4.00 GPA Scale

Each Alpha Grade in the module assessment matrix is assigned a numerical Grade Point Value (GPV) as outlined in the table G2.3.

Table G2.3: Attributes of the Granulated GPA Model for 40% Pass Mark

Alpha Grade	Grade Band, % Mark	Grade Point Value (GPV)	Credits Awarded	Description of Achievement/ Performance See Grade Point Average Scheme for granulated description of the expected learner achievement for each grade band.
A1	80 - 100	4.00	Yes	Outstanding
A2	75 - 79	3.80	Yes	Excellent
A3	70 - 74	3.60	Yes	Really Good
B1	65 - 69	3.20	Yes	Very Good
B2	60 - 64	3.00	Yes	Good
B3	55 - 59	2.80	Yes	Competent
C1	50 - 54	2.60	Yes	Satisfactory
C2	45 - 49	2.40	Yes	Acceptable
C3	40 - 44	2.00	Yes	Minimally Acceptable
D	35 - 39	1.60	Yes	Weak (Compensatory Pass Grade)
DF	35 - 39	0.00	No	*Fail:* Compensation Rule Unmet OR Compensation not allowed for module. (*Approved derogation required for latter*).
F	≤34	0.00	No	Fail: All F grades must be retaken.
PS	≥40	--	Yes	*Pass:* Not used in GPA Calculation in Pass/Fail Module
FL	0-39	--	No	*Fail:* Not used in GPA Calculation in Pass/Fail Module All FL grades must be retaken.
DEF			No	Deferred Assessment Grade
EXEMPT			Yes	Exempted Assessment Grade
WH				Withheld Assessment Grade

GPA Calculation

To determine a GPA, the following calculation is carried out:

a. A grade point value (GPV) is assigned to the alphabetic grade a student has gained for each module, as listed above.
b. The GPV is multiplied by the ECTS Credits allocated to that module to determine the Grade Points Earned for each module.
c. The sum of the Grade Points Earned is divided by the ECTS credits for the stage to arrive at the GPA.

$$\text{Mathematically: } GPA = \frac{\sum(\text{Module ECTS Credits} \times \text{GPV})}{\text{ECTS Credits for Stage}}$$

For modules awarded grade of PS or X, the ECTS credits gained are excluded from GPA calculations.

Compensatory Pass Grade

Programmes and modules where Compensatory Pass Grades are not permissible, require approved derogation from assessment regulations from the University Programmes Board (UPB). Such derogations must be stated in the approved programme and module descriptors on the Programme & Module Catalogue (PMC). Regulations for treatment of Compensatory Pass Grade for programmes with 40% Pass Mark are detailed in Section 8 of Assessment Regulations for Taught Programmes.

The following additional guidelines shall apply:

1. In the case of a module with a designated Pass Mark greater than 40%, the Compensatory Pass Grade will be an equivalent grade band below the Pass Mark, for example, a module with a designated Pass Mark of 50% the Compensatory Pass Grade shall be ≥ 45% and ≤ 49%.
2. Where the designated Pass Mark is 40% and a student has 60 ECTS credits earned and a GPA of > 2.0, they are deemed to have passed, and the Compensatory Pass Grade 'D' will automatically be applied to all marginally failed modules where compensation is permissible.
3. Where the designated Pass Mark is 50% and a student has 60 ECTS credits earned and a GPA of > 2.6, they are deemed to have passed, and the Compensatory Pass Grade 'D' will automatically be applied to all marginally failed modules where compensation is permissible.
4. Any marginally failed module where the compensation rule is not met or where compensation is not permissible will bear a 'DF' grade.
5. All failed modules, i.e., grade 'DF', 'F' or 'FL' must be retaken and passed, regardless of the GPA score.
6. Where a student has 60 ECTS credits earned, no F Grades and a GPA ≤ 2.0 (40% Pass Mark) and ≤ 2.6 (50% Pass Mark), the student will be required to resit D grades and achieve Pass Grades.
7. All reassessments are capped at pass grade and the system is configured to return the 'Latest Grade Attained' for repeated modules

Examples of GPA Calculations for Academic Standing

Example I:
Student Academic Standing based on 60 ECTS credits, credits earned 60, GPA ≥ 2.00

Grade Earned %	Alpha Grade	Grade Point Value (GPV)	Module Credits (MC)	Grade Points Earned (GPV * MC)
42	C3	2.0	5	10
44	C3	2.0	5	10
45	C2	2.4	5	12
40	C3	2.0	10	20
54	C1	2.6	5	13
52	C1	2.6	5	13
42	C3	2.0	10	20
40	C3	2.0	5	10
49	C2	2.4	5	12
65	B1	3.2	5	16
			∑(Module ECTS Credits × GPV)	136
			Required ECTS Credits for Stage	60
			$\text{GPA} = \frac{\sum(\text{Module ECTS Credits} \times \text{GPV})}{\text{ECTS Credits for Stage}}$	2.27

Notes:
1. This student has met the credit requirement of 60 ECTS Credits earned
2. The GPA ≥ 2.00, hence, Academic Standing (progression outcome) for the stage is *Pass Progress*

Example II(a):

Student Academic Standing based on 60 ECTS credits, D grades with GPA < 2.0

Grade Earned %	Alpha Grade	Grade Point Value (GPV)	Module Credits (MC)	Grade Points Earned (GPV * MC)
42	C3	2.0	5	10
44	C3	2.0	5	10
43	C3	2.0	5	10
40	C3	2.0	10	20
44	C3	2.0	5	10
38	D	1.6	5	8
42	C3	2.0	10	20
40	C3	2.0	5	10
44	C3	2.0	5	10
36	D	1.6	5	8
			∑(Module ECTS Credits × GPV)	116
			Required ECTS Credits for Stage	60
			$\text{GPA} = \frac{\sum(\text{Module ECTS Credits} \times \text{GPV})}{\text{ECTS Credits for Stage}}$	1.93

Notes:

1. This student has a GPA < 2.0 and has > 1 D grades therefore, Academic Standing (progression outcome) for the stage is *Fail Resit*.
2. The student will need to Resit all D grades and achieve a minimum of C3 in each to bring the GPA to > 2.0 to progress

Example II (b):
Outcome of Resit from Example II(a)

Grade Earned %	Alpha Grade	Grade Point Value (GPV)	Module Credits (MC)	Grade Points Earned (GPV * MC)
42	C3	2.0	5	10
44	C3	2.0	5	10
43	C3	2.0	5	10
40	C3	2.0	10	20
44	C3	2.0	5	10
70	C3	2.0	5	10
42	C3	2.0	10	20
40	C3	2.0	5	10
44	C3	2.0	5	10
55	C3	2.0	5	10
			∑(Module ECTS Credits × GPV)	120
			Required ECTS Credits for Stage	60
			$\text{GPA} = \frac{\sum(\text{Module ECTS Credits} \times \text{GPV})}{\text{ECTS Credits for Stage}}$	2.00

Notes:
1. Outcomes of reassessment are capped at C3, hence, if the candidate in Example II(a) repeated and achieved grade of 70% and 55%, the resit grades will update to C3, hence, GPA of 2.0.
2. Following the supplemental assessment boards, academic standing will update to *Pass Progress*.

Example III:

Student Academic Standing based on 60 ECTS credits, D grade with GPA > 2.0

Grade Earned %	Alpha Grade	Grade Point Value (GPV)	Module Credits (MC)	Grade Points Earned (GPV * MC)
42	C3	2.0	5	10
44	C3	2.0	5	10
45	C2	2.4	5	12
40	C3	2.0	10	20
54	C1	2.6	5	13
38	D	1.6	5	8
42	C3	2.0	10	20
40	C3	2.0	5	10
49	C2	2.4	5	12
43	C3	2.0	5	10
			∑(Module ECTS Credits × GPV)	125
			Required ECTS Credits for Stage	60
			$\text{GPA} = \frac{\sum(\text{Module ECTS Credits} \times \text{GPV})}{\text{ECTS Credits for Stage}}$	2.08

Notes:

1. This student has a GPA > 2.0 and has 1 D grade. Where a student has 60 ECTS credits earned and a GPA of > 2.0, they are deemed to have passed overall, and any D grade automatically has a Compensatory Pass Grade applied. (*Assumption in this example is that the D grade was not pertaining to a capstone project* or '*must pass*' module which must have a C3 or higher grade.)
2. Therefore, Academic Standing (progression outcome) for the stage is *Pass Progress*

Example IV:

Student academic standing based on 90 credits e.g. Taught Masters.

Grade Earned %	Alpha Grade	Grade Point Value (GPV)	Module Credits (MC)	Grade Points Earned (GPV * MC)
62	B2	3.0	5	15
38	D	1.6	5	8
45	C2	2.4	5	12
50	C1	2.6	30	78
72	A3	3.6	5	18
60	B2	3.0	5	15
55	B3	2.8	10	28
48	C2	2.4	5	12
67	B1	3.2	10	32
52	C1	2.6	10	26
			∑(Module ECTS Credits × GPV)	244
			Required ECTS Credits for Stage	90
			$\text{GPA} = \frac{\sum(\text{Module ECTS Credits} \times \text{GPV})}{\text{ECTS Credits for Stage}}$	2.71

Notes:

1. This student has a GPA > 2.0 and has 1 D grade. Where a student has the required 90 ECTS credits earned and a GPA of > 2.0, they are deemed to have passed overall, and any D grade automatically has a Compensatory Pass Grade applied. (*Assumption in this example is that the D grade was not pertaining to a capstone project* or '*must pass*' module which must have a C3 or higher grade.)
2. Therefore, Academic Standing (progression outcome) for the stage is *Programme Complete*.

Granulated GPA Model and Example of GPA Calculation for Programmes with Designated 50% Pass Mark

Table B2: Attributes of the Granulated GPA Model Approved for 50% Pass Mark

Alpha Grade	Grade Band, % Mark	Grade Point Value (GPV)	Credits Awarded	Description of Achievement/ Performance See Grade Point Average Scheme for granulated description of the expected learner achievement for each grade band.
A1	80 - 100	4.00	Yes	Outstanding
A2	75 - 79	3.80	Yes	Excellent
A3	70 - 74	3.60	Yes	Really Good
B1	65 - 69	3.20	Yes	Very Good
B2	60 - 64	3.00	Yes	Good
B3	55 - 59	2.80	Yes	Competent
C	50 - 54	2.60	Yes	Satisfactory
D	45 - 49	1.60	Yes	Weak (Compensatory Pass Grade)
DF	45 - 49	0.00	No	*Fail:* Compensation Rule Unmet OR Compensation not allowed for module. (*Approved derogation required for latter*).
F	≤44	0.00	No	Fail: All F grades must be retaken.
PS	≥50	--	Yes	*Pass:* Not used in GPA Calculation in Pass/Fail Module
FL	0-49	--	No	*Fail:* Not used in GPA Calculation in Pass/Fail Module All FL grades must be retaken.
DEF			No	Deferred Assessment Grade
EXEMPT			Yes	Exempted Assessment Grade
WH				Withheld Assessment Grade

Example I:

Student academic standing based on 60 credits with a Module Pass Mark of 50%, D grade with GPA > 2.6

Grade Earned %	Alpha Grade	Grade Point Value (GPV)	Module Credits (MC)	Grade Points Earned (GPV * MC)
56	B3	2.80	5	14
50	C	2.60	5	13
45	D	1.60	5	8
52	C	2.60	10	26
66	B1	3.20	5	16
60	B2	3.00	5	15
51	C	2.60	10	26
57	B3	2.80	5	14
55	B3	2.80	5	14
52	C	2.60	5	13
			∑(Module ECTS Credits × GPV)	159
			Required ECTS Credits for Stage	60
			$\text{GPA} = \frac{\sum(\text{Module ECTS Credits} \times \text{GPV})}{\text{ECTS Credits for Stage}}$	2.65

Notes:

1. This student has a GPA > 2.6 and has 1 D grade. Where a student has 60 ECTS credits earned and a GPA of > 2.6, they are deemed to have passed overall, and any D grade automatically has a Compensatory Pass Grade applied. (*Assumption in this example is that the D grade was not pertaining to a capstone project* or '*must pass*' module which must have a C3 or higher grade.)
2. Therefore, Academic Standing (progression outcome) for the stage is *Pass Progress*.

Example II:

Student academic standing based on 60 credits with a Module Pass Mark of 50%, D grade with GPA < 2.6

Grade Earned %	Alpha Grade	Grade Point Value (GPV)	Module Credits (MC)	Grade Points Earned (GPV * MC)
56	B3	2.80	5	14
50	C	2.60	5	13
45	D	1.60	5	8
52	C	2.60	10	26
57	B3	2.80	5	14
52	C	2.60	5	13
51	C	2.60	10	26
57	B3	2.80	5	14
54	C	2.60	5	13
52	C	2.60	5	13
			∑(Module ECTS Credits × GPV)	154
			Required ECTS Credits for Stage	60
			$\text{GPA} = \frac{\sum(\text{Module ECTS Credits} \times \text{GPV})}{\text{ECTS Credits for Stage}}$	2.57

Notes:

1. *This student has met the credit requirement of 60 ECTS Credits but has a GPA < 2.60 with 1 D grade; therefore, Academic Standing for the stage is Fail/Resit.*
2. *2. The D grade needs to be retaken.*

Example III:

Student academic standing based on 60 credits with a Module Pass Mark of 50% and with compensation not allowed.

Grade Earned %	Alpha Grade	Grade Point Value (GPV)	Module Credits (MC)	Grade Points Earned (GPV * MC)
54	C	2.60	5	13
50	C	2.60	5	13
45	DF	0.00	5	0
52	C	2.60	10	26
53	C	2.60	5	13
54	C	2.60	5	13
45	DF	0.00	10	0
50	C	2.60	5	13
55	B3	2.80	5	14
52	C	2.60	5	13
			∑(Module ECTS Credits × GPV)	118
			Required ECTS Credits for Stage	60
			$\text{GPA} = \frac{\sum(\text{Module ECTS Credits} \times \text{GPV})}{\text{ECTS Credits for Stage}}$	1.97

Notes:

1. This student has neither met the credit requirement of 60 ECTS Credits (Credits Earned 45) nor GPA ≥ 2.60.
2. Therefore, Academic Standing for the stage is *Fail/Resit*. Both DF grades must be retaken

Module Assessment Terminology

Module Assessment Breakdown	Describes the assessment components applicable to a module, i.e., formal invigilated exam, coursework (e.g., essay, case study, project, report, dissertation, in-class test, presentation, practical skills evaluation, reflective journal etc.).
% of Total Mark for Module	Weighting of assessment component, as % of the final module grade. For example, a module may constitute of three assessment components adding to 100%: • End of semester Invigilated Exam worth 50% of the overall grade. • Week 7 - Case Study worth 40% of the overall grade • Week 12 - Presentation worth 10% of the overall grade
Assessment Threshold	The minimum percentage a student must achieve in an assessment component. Failure to achieve this minimum, regardless of other assessment component results for a module, will result in failure in the module. For Application of Thresholds please see Section 2.7 of the Assessment Regulations for Taught Programmes.
Assessment Description	Provides detail on the type of assessment and any specific requirements on candidates/students.
Assessment Role	Indicates if the assessment is individual, Paired or Group based assessment.
Must Pass	An assessment or assessment component that must be passed in order to pass the module.
Pass/Fail	Binary grading of a module where students receive either a “Pass” or a “Fail” grade designation, instead of a numerical or letter grades
Derogation (special regulations)	A derogation from assessment regulations refers to a formal exemption from the university Assessment Regulations. Derogations must be sought at programme development/review and approved by UPB
Compensatory Pass Grade	Compensatory Pass Grade defines module(s) failed marginally but still qualifies for the requisite ECTS credits. It is applied to allow a student who marginally fails one or more modules to progress in their academic programme or to qualify for an Award without having to retake the failed module(s) (see Section 8 Assessment Regulations for Taught Programmes). While a Compensatory Pass Grade (D) is the minimally acceptable performance in any individual module, a GPA of 2.0 for each stage is required to Pass Progress. Therefore, a D grade must be compensated for by higher grades in other modules attained in the relevant stage.
Deferred Grade	Where a candidate has not been able to take an assessment on the date scheduled for that assessment due to extenuating circumstances. The candidate has applied for and been granted a deferral of assessment. Such permission shall normally indicate the alternative assessment arrangement(s).
Exempted Grade	Where a candidate has applied for and been granted an exemption. A module which a student is not required to take, but for which credits may be awarded on the basis of recognition of previously attained qualifications or certified learning or recognition of prior experiential learning.
Withheld Grade	Assessment mark/grade not made available to student due to a yet-to-be resolved matter.

Quality Framework Glossary of Terms can be found at: Quality Framework Glossary of Terms.docx