



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

INTRODUCTION OF REVISED GPA SCHEME 2014/2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

In May 2011, the Board for Undergraduate Studies agreed to introduce a revised Grade Point Average (GPA) Scheme for all undergraduate programmes at The University of the West Indies. **THIS CHANGE WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM SEMESTER ONE OF THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/2015.** The revised scheme will make some important changes to the way assessment is conducted and grades are represented on student transcripts.

The first big change will be an adjustment to the letter grade bands, and the quality points associated with them. (As you may know, the quality points are used to calculate the GPA and ultimately, the class of degree awarded.) Whereas a passing grade in the current scheme is represented as a 'D', with a quality point of 1.00, in the revised scheme a passing grade will be represented as 'C', with a quality point of 2.00. There are also some adjustments to the other letter bands.

The second big change will be a change in the methods of assessment. 'Grade Descriptors' will be introduced to explain the level of skills and knowledge represented by each letter grade. It is expected that this will lead to a move away from a culture of marking using raw percentage scores to an approach that is more transparent and objective, and designed to give a clearer picture of the level of competencies achieved by each student.

Finally, there will be an adjustment in the percentage bands associated with the letter grades, to bring UWI in line with international best practice. This will mean that the old raw pass mark of 40% will move to 50%. However, the upper bands will also be shifted, so that –for example –the band from A- to A+ will now have a percentage range from 75 to 100%.

The following table shows the differences between the current and revised GPA scheme.

Current Scheme			Revised Scheme		
GRADE	QUALITY POINT	% RANGE	GRADE	QUALITY POINT	% RANGE
A+	4.30	86-100	A+	4.30	90-100
A	4.00	70-85	A	4.00	80-89
A-	3-70	67-69	A-	3.70	75-79
B+	3.30	63-66	B+	3.30	70-74
B	3.00	60-62	B	3.00	65-69
B-	2.70	57-59	B-	2.70	60-64
C+	2.30	53-56	C+	2.30	55-59
C	2.00	50-52	C	2.00	50-54
C-	1.70	48-49	FE	1.30	35-49
D+	1.30	43-46	F	0.00	0-34
D	1.00	40-42			
F	0	0-39			

Consequent on the changes to the GPA scheme outline above, the class of degree will be determined as follows:

GPA	Class of Hons Degree
3.60 and above	First Class
3.00– 3.59	Upper Second
2.50 – 2.99	Lower Second
2.00 – 2.49	Pass

The changes described above will change the way in which the performance of students is represented on their transcripts. However, **IT WILL NOT CHANGE THE STANDARD OF THE UWI DEGREE.**

WHY ARE THESE CHANGES BEING MADE?

The reasons for these changes can be summarised as follows:

1. They will bring the GPA scheme used by UWI more in line with GPA schemes used internationally;
2. The new grade bands and accompanying descriptors will be easier for employers and others outside the University to understand;
3. They will make it easier for holders of a UWI Degree to seek employment and access postgraduate studies overseas;
4. The use of grade descriptors will allow more transparent and objective assessment based on knowledge acquired and competencies achieved.

HOW WILL THE CHANGES BE IMPLEMENTED?

During the current academic year, prior to the introduction of the revised GPA scheme, The University will be conducting workshops for all members of the teaching staff to familiarise them with the changes and to provide training in the associated methods of assessment. Sessions will also be held for students, so that they can ask questions and familiarise themselves with the changes being made.

THE REVISED GPA SCHEME WILL BE APPLIED TO ALL NEW AND CONTINUING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY FROM SEMESTER ONE 2014/2015.

However, the transcripts of continuing students will show the grades achieved by them under the current scheme prior to that date. Continuing Level I students, and those entering level II in Semester One 2014/2015 will graduate under the revised scheme; those who are continuing level II and Level III students in Semester One 2014/2015 will graduate under the old scheme. When the continuing level II and level III students complete the credits required to graduate, the degree GPA earned by them under the revised scheme from Semester One 2014/2015 will be converted to make it compatible with the old scheme. The purpose of this conversion is to ensure that **no student is disadvantaged** as a result of the transition to the new scheme. The University Administration will monitor this process carefully to ensure that this objective is met.

The one exception to the procedure outlined above will be Engineering students at all levels, who will be graded on the new scheme along with all other students from Semester One 2014/2015, but who will graduate according to the scheme applied at the time they entered The University. This exception is being made because Engineering is the only Faculty in which level I grades count toward the final class of degree.

FURTHER INFORMATION

You can learn more about the implementation of the revised GPA scheme by listening to a podcast on the campus website at the following address:

<http://www.uwi.edu/undergraduategpa>

You can also ask the Examinations Section on your Campus for a printed copy of this statement.

**Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies
Thursday, 12 September 2013**