

Grading systems for first- and second-cycle courses and study programmes as of 2011-01-01

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Background

According to the Higher Education Ordinance in its wording up to December 2010, grades assigned must be either fail, pass, or pass with credit, unless the higher-education institution prescribes another grading system. By virtue of this provision, the Vice-Chancellor has made a number of decisions regarding other grading systems. According to the Higher Education Ordinance in its wording as of January 2011, higher-education institutions are permitted to prescribe what grading system is to be used for grading a completed course. Hitherto, the norm has been based on the Higher Education Ordinance.

Assessment

In the judgement of the Vice-Chancellor, there is no reason to make any changes in the grading systems applied within the disciplinary domains.

Decision

The Vice-Chancellor prescribes that the following grading systems are to be used as of 1 January 2011:

Disciplinary Domain of the Arts and Social Sciences except the Faculty of Law and Teacher Training Programmes	Fail (U) Pass (G) Pass with credit (VG)
Faculty of Law	Fail (U) Pass (B) Pass not without distinction (Ba) Pass with distinction (AB)
Teacher Training Programmes (subject area courses)	Grading system of the relevant faculty

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Disciplinary Domain of Medicine and Pharmacy except the Faculty of Pharmacy, the Programme in Biomedicine, and Master Programmes in Forensic Science and Infection Biology	Fail (U) Pass (G)
Faculty of Pharmacy	Fail (U) Pass (G) Pass with credit (VG)
Programme in Biomedicine, and Master Programmes in Forensic Science and Infection Biology	Fail (U) Pass (G) Pass with credit (VG)
Disciplinary Domain of Science and Technology	Fail (U) Pass (3) Pass not without distinction (4) Pass with distinction (5)

In all cases, the relevant domain board, or, where appropriate, faculty board, during the year 2011 may decide on another grading system for courses regarding degree projects, placement (VFU), other placement courses, project-oriented courses and survey courses.

Expected study outcomes are to be stated in course syllabi. They must delineate what is required for a passing grade. Requirements for higher grades must be formulated in terms of stepwise higher quality in goal fulfilment.

Previous decisions that will cease to apply

This decision voids previous decisions by the Vice-Chancellor regarding grading systems, namely Grading system for courses within the area of responsibility of the Board for Teacher Training as of 1993-07-01 (Log No. 1902/93), Grading system for the Bachelor of Law Programme as of 1993-07-01, Grades for courses in the Programme in Medicine (Log No. 2450/93), Grading system in the first and second cycles (UFV 2006/1473) regarding the part dealing with grading systems in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance, Grading system for the Faculty of Science and Technology (UFV 2006/1473), Grading system for courses and study programmes in pharmacy as of 2007-07-01 (UFV 2007/537).