

CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN UNIVERSITIES



**Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council
UGC/Ministry of Higher Education**

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ABBREVIATIONS

APIIT	-	Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology
CA	-	Continuous Assessment
CDP	-	Comprehensive Design Project
CGPA	-	Cumulative Grade Point Average
CMB	-	University of Colombo
CQF	-	Credit and Qualifications Framework
EUSL	-	Eastern University of Sri Lanka
GPA	-	Grade Point Average
IESL	-	Institute of Engineers of Sri Lanka
JFN	-	University of Jaffna
KLN	-	University of Kelaniya
L	-	Levels
LFN	-	Livestock, Fisheries and Nutrition
MCQ	-	Multiple Choice Questions
MRT	-	University of Moratuwa
OUSL	-	Open University of Sri Lanka
PDN	-	University of Peradeniya
QAAC	-	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council
RHN	-	University of Ruhuna
RUSL	-	Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
RRI	-	Rubber Research Institute
SEE	-	Semester End Examination
SEUSL	-	South Eastern University of Sri Lanka
SJP	-	University of Sri Jayewardenepura
SP	-	Sri Palee Campus
SUSL	-	Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
SVI	-	Swami Vipulananda Institute
TC	-	Trincomalee Campus
UGC	-	University Grants Commission
VAPA	-	University of Visual and Performing Arts
VC	-	Vavuniya Campus
WUSL	-	Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

FOREWORD

Since its establishment in August 2005, the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council (QAAC) has been performing an important role in assuring the quality of degree programmes offered by public higher education institutions in Sri Lanka. Under the concept of lifelong learning and whole person development, it is only natural that the QAAC should progressively be involved in quality related matters for all qualifications in Higher Education. A good example of this development is the identification of a common Credit and Qualifications Framework (CQF) for all the degree programmes offered by the universities.

First, the variation among similar degree programmes was identified and information was provided to relevant academics through publications and awareness programmes. Then workshops were conducted for each different degree programme with the participation of Vice-Chancellors, Deans, Heads of Departments and Senior Academics in the relevant disciplines.

All Deans/Heads of Faculties/Departments made presentations on salient features of the respective degree programmes at their universities/campuses. This forum enabled the participants from different universities to be familiarized with good practices in similar degree programmes offered by other Universities.

At the end of each workshop a common consensus was arrived on the CQF suitable for respective degree programmes minimizing the drastic variations in CQF prevailed so far in these programmes.

This report presents the outcome of the series of CQF workshops providing the agreed upon CQF accepted for each degree programmes.

Prof. Colin N. Peiris.
Quality Assurance Specialist.
QAA Council of the UGC.

1st November 2007.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is a known fact that there is a significant variation in the degree awarding criteria as well as in the structure of the degree programmes conducted by different faculties/universities within the Sri Lankan university system. Hence, there is an urgent need to formulate a common Credit and Qualification Framework (CQF) for Sri Lankan university system in order to maintain the consistency and comparability of university level qualifications, and to promote student mobility by creating more flexible arrangements for student learning.

The purposes of a common CQF could be summarized as follows.

- to maintain national and international comparability of standards, ensure international competitiveness and facilitate student and graduate mobility;
- to provide a structure that facilitates consistent use of qualification titles and levels;
- to help higher education institutions to agree on points of reference for setting and assessing standards of programmes;
- to enable employers, schools, prospective students, parents and others to understand the achievements represented by different qualifications;
- to help students to identify routes for progression, within qualifications and from one qualification to another.

It is necessary to design a transparent framework showing the minimum number and levels of credit a student is required to have completed successfully before achieving a qualification. This can also be used to define the minimum level of learning at various stages that students need in order to achieve the intended learning outcomes. The introduction of a CQF would also have implications for assessment methods and procedures. Credit and Qualification Framework would help academic staff and students to relate learning outcomes to assessment criteria and procedures, and to review whether existing assessment methods test the intended learning outcomes for a programme.

However, the CQF should be capable of accommodating diversity and innovation in programme development and should have sufficient flexibility to enable institutions to develop programmes that are responsive to changing needs of all the stakeholders. Further, it should provide paths for progression to facilitate lifelong learning, and maximizes opportunities for credit transfer, thereby minimizing duplication of learning.

With the aim of identifying the areas of divergence & similarities, and to develop a common CQF, the Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QAA) Council of the UGC has conducted a comprehensive survey on the structure of

all the degree programmes offered by Sri Lankan universities. In this survey, the following information/data were collected.

- Definition of a Credit
- Total Credit Requirement for the Degree
- Maximum – Minimum Credits per Year
- Maximum Number of Attempts/Course and years to complete the degree
- Evaluation/Examination Structure
- Grades and Grade Point Values for Courses
- Cut-off Levels of GPA for Awarding Classes/Pass

This information is presented under different degree programmes considering the composition of the UGC Standing Committees. It is expected that the UGC Standing Committees would make an attempt to reach a consensus on the structure of the degree programmes conducted by different faculties/universities.

2. CREDIT & QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK ON AGRICULTURE RELATED DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN UNIVERSITIES

UNIVERSITIES AND RELEVANT FACULTIES PARTICIPATED

University/Faculty	Members Participated
PDN	Dean + 07 Academics
JFN	Dean
RHN	Dean + 07 Academics
EUSL	Dean + 04 Academics
RUSL	Dean + 03 Academics
SUSL	Dean + 04 Academics
WUSL/Agriculture	Dean + 01 Academic
WUSL/Livestock, Fisheries & Nutrition (LFN)	Dean + 02 Academics
UGC Standing Committee & Others	06
Resource Persons	03
Total	45

University of Peradeniya

Prof. B. Marambe (Dean)
 Prof. (Ms.) S. E. Peiris
 Dr. M. P. B. Wijegunawardene
 Prof. D. C. K. Illeperuma
 Dr. R. M. C. P. Rajapaksha
 Prof. R. B. Mapa
 Prof. A. N. Jayakody
 Prof. (Ms) E. R. K. Perera

University of Jaffna

Dr. (Ms.) S. Sivachandiran (Dean)

University of Ruhuna

Prof. (Ms.) T. Serasinghe (Dean)
 Prof. Gamini Senanayake
 Prof. M. Wijeratne
 Prof. Asoka Gunawardene
 Dr. L. A. Abeywickrama
 Prof. K.K. Pathirana
 Dr. P.L.A.G. Alwis
 Mr. Mahinda Athapaththu

Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Dr. K. Premakumar (Dean)
Prof. K. Thedchanamoorthy
Mr. P. Jeyakumar
Prof V. Arulnandhy
Dr. M. M. Mahsoon

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Dr. (Ms.) P. A. Weerasinghe (Dean)
Ms. U. D. Devasinghe
Dr. D. M. Jinadasa
Mr. A. M. J. B. Adikari

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

Prof. R. P. Mahaliyanaarachchi (Vice-Chancellor)
Dr. AAY Amarasinghe (Dean)
Dr. D. M. A. Gunaratne
Dr. P. I. Yapa
Dr. M. Esham

Wayamba University of Sri Lanka - Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management

Prof. S. J. B. A. Jayasekera (Dean/Agric.)
Dr. J. M. U. K. Jayasinghe
Prof. J. M. P. K. Jayasinghe (Dean/LFN)
Prof. W. M. T. B. Wanninayake

Standing Committee Members & Others

Prof. Gamini Samaranayake – Chairman, UGC
Prof. Rohan Rajapakshe – Chairman/Std. Comm. on Agriculture, Vet.
Medicine and Animal Sciences, UGC
Prof. Upali Jayasekera - APIIT
Mr. Lakshman Niyangoda – Director, Baur & Co.
Dr. Chandra Jayasinghe – RRI
Dr. C. Kudagamage – Director General, Agriculture

UGC Memo:

Credit and Qualifications Framework - Agriculture Related Degree Programmes in Universities

1. Introduction

It is a known fact that there is a significant variation in the degree awarding criteria as well as in the structure of the degree programmes conducted by different faculties/universities within the Sri Lankan university system. Hence, there is an urgent need to formulate a common Credit and Qualification Framework (CQF) for Sri Lankan university system in order to maintain the consistency and comparability of university level qualifications, and to promote student mobility by creating more flexible arrangements for student learning.

The purposes of a common CQF could be summarized as follows.

- to maintain national and international comparability of standards, ensure international competitiveness and facilitate student and graduate mobility;
- to provide a structure that facilitates consistent use of qualification titles and levels;
- to help higher education institutions to agree on points of reference for setting and assessing standards of programmes;
- to enable employers, schools, prospective students, parents and others to understand the achievements represented by different qualifications;
- to help students to identify routes for progression, within qualifications and from one qualification to another.

2. Recommendations

A) National Level: The following standards to be accepted at the National level, i.e. common to all agriculture degree programmes

2.1 Academic Year: should consist of two semesters, each consisting 15 weeks.

2.2 Definition of a credit: A credit should define as 15 contact hours of lectures, 30 hours of Laboratory Practicals/Field Practicals/ Field visits or any judicial combination of the above. Six credits for each semester as a block credit value for final year Research Project and for Industrial Training programmes.

2.3 Semester Nomenclature: The different years of the academic programme should be named as Level 1, level 2 level 3 and level 4 etc.

2.4 Credit Value for the Degree: A four year degree programme should consist of 120 credits as the minimum and 135 credits as the maximum.

2.5 Examination and Evaluation Structure: combination of continuous (assignments, quizzes, Mid-semester examinations) and end-term examinations should be practiced. The minimum of 20 percent of the total marks should be taken from continuous examinations for a given course. The maximum level will depend on the type of course.

2.6 Length of the Degree Programme: The degree should be completed in maximum of 8 years (4 years of the degree, 3 additional attempts, and 1 grace attempt).

2.7 Grades and Grade Point Values: It is proposed that grades and grade points be uniform in all faculties and the suggested grades and grade points were:

Grade	Grade Point value
A+	4.00
A	4.00
A-	3.70
B+	3.30
B	3.00
B-	2.70
C+	2.30
C	2.00
C-	1.70
D+	1.30
D	1.00
F	0.00

2.8 Cut-off levels of CGPA for Awarding Classes/Passes: The recommended Cumulative Grade Points Averages (CGPA) for awarding classes/passes were:

CGPA Cut-off	Class/Pass
3.75	First Class
3.30	Second Upper
2.75	Second Lower
2.00	Pass

B) Programme Level: It was suggested that the following aspects to be decided at the programme level.

2.9 **Pass mark of a course:** The pass mark for a course and mode of examination to be decided by the programme. However the suggested level is a minimum of 50 marks.

2.10 **Minimum and Maximum Credits per year:** This should be decided by the faculty considering available resources and facilities.

2.11 **Calculation of Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA):** The CGPA would be the weighted means giving equal or different weight for all levels.

3. CREDIT & QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK ON DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE

**RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA**

Department	Members Participated
Architecture	21 Academics
Building Economics	03 Academics
Resource Persons & Others	04
Total	28

Department of Architecture

Prof. Chitra Weddikkara (Dean/Faculty of Architecture)
Prof. Rohinton Emmanuel
Ms. R. S. D. Wickramanayake
Ms. W. M. N. D. Ranasinghe
Ms. K. K. G. I. C. Samarasekara
Dr. R. M. K. U. Rajapaksha
Mr. D. P. Chandrasekera
Prof. Lal Balasuriya
Prof. Nimal De Silva
Ms. Arosh Gamage
Ms. S. I. Balasuriya
Ms. Amanda Rajapakse
Dr. (Ms.) Indrika Rajapakshe
Ms. Melani Dissanayake
Prof. M. S. Manawadu
Dr. Jagath Munasinghe
Ms. R. Senanayake
Mr. Narein Perera
Dr. R. M. S. C. K. Rathnamalala
Mr. Prasanna Pitigala Liyanage
Mr. Ranjith Alahakoon

Department of Building Economics

Dr. M. D. T. E. Abeynayake
Ms. B. A. K. S. Perera
Ms. E. N. De Silva

UGC Memo:

Credit and Qualifications Framework - Degree Programmes in the Faculty of Architecture

1. Introduction

It is a known fact that there is a significant variation in the degree awarding criteria as well as in the structure of the degree programmes conducted by different faculties/universities within the Sri Lankan university system. Hence, there is an urgent need to formulate a common Credit and Qualification Framework (CQF) for Sri Lankan university system in order to maintain the consistency and comparability of university level qualifications, and to promote student mobility by creating more flexible arrangements for student learning.

The purposes of a common CQF could be summarized as follows.

- to maintain national and international comparability of standards, ensure international competitiveness and facilitate student and graduate mobility;
- to provide a structure that facilitates consistent use of qualification titles and levels;
- to help higher education institutions to agree on points of reference for setting and assessing standards of programmes;
- to enable employers, schools, prospective students, parents and others to understand the achievements represented by different qualifications;
- to help students to identify routes for progression, within qualifications and from one qualification to another.

2. Recommendations

A) National Level: The following standards to be accepted at the National level, i.e. common to all degree programmes of the Faculty of Architecture.

- 2.1 **Academic Year:** should consist of two semesters, each consisting 15 weeks.
- 2.2 **Definition of a Credit:** A credit should define as 15 contact hours of lectures (1 hr/week), 45 hours (3 hrs/week) of Studio work/Course work/Projects work/Laboratory practicals/Field work Group Project Works/Individually supervised research projects per week etc.

Note: Credit definition for Comprehensive Design Project (CDP), Industrial Training and Research Dissertation to be decided by the relevant courses.

2.3 **Semester Nomenclature:** The different years of the academic programme should be named as levels 1-8.

2.4 **Credit Value for the Degree:**

Length of Degree	3 years	4 Years	5 Years
Total Number of Credits	115	150	185

Note: Credit requirement of the Faculty of Architecture degree programmes are at a higher side when compared with the International standard of 30 credits/year.

2.5 **Assessments/Exams:** combination of continuous (assignments, quizzes, Mid-semester examinations) and end-term examinations should be practiced. The maximum level will depend on the type of course and the minimum and maximum percentages are as listed in the table.

Type of Assessment	Minimum and Maximum Level
Continuous Assessment	20%-60% Special cases could include 100%
End Semester Exam	40%-80% Special cases could include 100%

2.6 **Length of the Degree Programme:** The degree should be completed in 8 years for a 4 year degree programme and 10 years for a 5 year degree programme.

- 2.7 **Grades and Grade Point Values:** It is proposed that grades and grade points be uniform in all degrees and the suggested grades and grade points were:

Grade	Grade Point value
A+	4.20
A	4.00
A-	3.70
B+	3.30
B	3.00
B-	2.70
C+	2.30
C	2.00
C-	1.50
D	1.00
I	0.00
F	0.00
P	Pass in Non GPA module
N	Academic Concession(d)

- 2.8 **Cut-off levels of CGPA for Awarding Classes/Passes:** The recommended Cumulative Grade Points Averages (CGPA) for awarding classes/passes were:

CGPA Cut-off	Class/Pass
3.70	First Class
3.30	Second Upper
2.70	Second Lower
2.00	Pass

- B) Programme Level:** It was suggested that the following aspects to be decided at the programme level.

- 2.9 **Pass mark of a Course:** The pass mark for a course and mode of examination to be decided by the programme. It was stated that examiners should be permitted to scale up/down the present range with approval of Board of Examiners.
- 2.10 **Credit Definition:** Credit definition for Comprehensive Design Project (CDP), Industrial Training and Research Dissertation to be decided by the relevant courses.

- 2.11 **Evaluations:** Evaluation structure to be decided at programme level based on the curricula.
- 2.12 **Minimum and Maximum Credits per year:** This should be decided by the faculty considering available resources and facilities. All departments agreed to have minimum of 30 credits per year.
- 2.13 **Calculation of Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA):** The CGPA would be the weighted means giving equal for all levels.
- 2.14 **Cut-off levels of GPA for Classes:** All members agreed to eliminate classes and give only the CGPA value to the graduates as there is a disparity of CGPA values of classes offered by different universities.
Note: It was suggested to continue the practice of awarding classes for a certain period of time.
- 2.15 **Number of attempts / subject** should be decided by the programme.
- 2.16 **Relevant Issues:**
- It was suggested to eliminate non-GPA courses to minimize the burden of heavy workloads of students
 - It was recommended that all study programmes to make compulsory a certain percentage of marks from Continuous Assessments (CA), to eligible for the end semester exam.
 - All members from different Departments agreed to eliminate existing class awarding methods due to following reasons.
 - to be compatible with emerging academic trends in international arena
 - to improve the transparency of the degree and the grading system

**4. CREDIT & QUALIFICATIONS
FRAMEWORK ON ARTS, HUMANITIES &
SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN
UNIVERSITIES**

UNIVERSITIES AND RELEVANT FACULTIES PARTICIPATED

University/Campus	Faculty	Members Participated
CMB	Arts	Dean + 03 Academics
	Education	Dean
	Law	Dean
PDN	Arts	Dean + 04 Academics
SJP	Arts	Dean + 02 Academics
KLN	Humanities	Dean + 03 Academics
	Social Sciences	Dean + 03 Academics
RHN	Humanities & Social Sciences	Dean
EUSL	Arts & Culture	Dean + 02 Academics
SEUSL	Arts & Culture	Dean + 01 Academic
	Islamic Studies & Arabic Language	Dean + 01 Academic
RUSL	Social Sciences	Dean + 03 Academics
SUSL	Social Sciences & Languages	Dean
OUSL	Education	Dean + 01 Academic
VAPA	Dance & Drama	Dean + 01 Academic
	Visual Arts	Dean + 02 Academics
	Music	01 Academic
TC	Communication & Business Studies	Dean + 01 Academic
SP		Rector
SVI		Director
Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology		Director
Resource Persons & Others		04
Total		52

University of Colombo

Prof. S. M. P. Senanayake (Dean/Arts)
 Prof. Raja Gunawardena (Dean/Education)
 Mr. N. Selvakumaran (Dean/Law)
 Mr. Sarath Vidanagama
 Dr. (Ms.) S. M. K. Herath
 Prof. Jayadeva Uyangoda

Sri Palee Campus – University of Colombo

Mr. W. N. Wilson (Rector)

University of Peradeniya

Prof. K. Tudor Silva (Dean/Arts)

Prof. Gamini Keerawella

Prof. J. M. Gunadasa

Dr. Prasad Sethunga

Prof. Shantha Hennayake

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Mr. S. A. S. Silva (Dean/Arts)

Prof. G. A. U. Wickramasinghe

Dr. D. P. S. Chandrakumara

University of Kelaniya

Prof. K. Kumarasinghe (Dean/Humanities)

Prof. (Rev). K. Wimaladhamma Thera

Mr. Lal Mervin Dharmasiri

Prof. Ananda Wijerathne

Dr. Asoka Premarathne

Dr. H. Sirisena

Prof. Y. M. S. Maddumabandara (Dean/Social Sciences)

Mr. Anura Manatunga

Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology – University of Kelaniya

Prof. Nimal de Silva (Director)

University of Ruhuna

Prof. Sarath Amarasinghe (Dean)

Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Miss. S. Ponniah (Dean)

Dr (Ms.) A. Murugathas

Mr. V. Gunaratnam

Trincomalee Campus – Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Mr. M. Karunanithy (Dean)

Ms. Niruba S. Jayasundara

South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Mr. S. M. Alif (Dean/Arts & Culture)

Mr. M. A. M. Faleel Haq

Mr. M. S. M. Jalaldeen (Dean/Islamic Studies & Arabic Language)

Mr. S. M. M. Mazahir

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Dr. A. Lagamuwa (Dean)

Dr. Sena Nanayakkara

Dr. J. M. S. B. Jayasundera

Dr. H. M. M. B. Seneviratne

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

Dr (Ms.) J. M. N. G. Samarakoon (Dean)

University of Visual and Performing Arts

Mr. Susiripala Malimbada (Dean/Visual Arts)

Mr. H. M. P. B. Herath

Mr. M. R. Podinilame

Mr. Jayasena Kottegoda (Dean/Dance & Drama)

Mr. A. M. T. Amarasekara

Mr. B. R. Dassanayake

Open University of Sri Lanka

Dr (Ms.) G. D. Lekamge (Dean/Education)

Dr (Ms.) T. S. V de Silva

Swami Vipulananda Institute

Ms. B. Rajeshwaran (Director)

UGC Memo:

Credit and Qualifications Framework - Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Degree Programmes in Universities

1.0 Introduction

It is a known fact that there is a significant variation in the degree awarding criteria as well as in the structure of the degree programmes conducted by different faculties/universities within the Sri Lankan university system. Hence, there is an urgent need to formulate a common Credit and Qualification Framework (CQF) for Sri Lankan university system in order to maintain the consistency and comparability of university level qualifications, and to promote student mobility by creating more flexible arrangements for student learning.

The purposes of a common CQF could be summarized as follows.

- to maintain national and international comparability of standards, ensure international competitiveness and facilitate student and graduate mobility;
- to provide a structure that facilitates consistent use of qualification titles and levels;
- to help higher education institutions to agree on points of reference for setting and assessing standards of programmes;
- to enable employers, schools, prospective students, parents and others to understand the achievements represented by different qualifications;
- to help students to identify routes for progression, within qualifications and from one qualification to another.

2.0 Recommendations

- A) National Level:** The following standards to be accepted at the National level, i.e. common to all Arts, Humanities and Social Science degree programmes

2.1 Academic Year: should consist of two semesters, each consisting 15 weeks.

2.2 Definition of a credit: A credit should be defined as 15 contact hours of lectures, 30 hours of Practicals or any judicious combination of the above. Six credits for each semester as a block credit value for final year Research Project.

2.3 Semester Nomenclature: Both years & levels to be used and may have to be continued. Courses should be named after

levels: ex. level I course; level II course; level III course; level IV course & free level course. For example, a student in year 2 may have to take a level I course while in year 2.

2.4 Credit Value for the Degree:

To prescribe a minimum of 90 credits for a three year degree and 120 credits for a four year with limit on the maximum, as decided by the faculty.

To include first year credit hours in calculating GPA, where it is not practiced at present.

To have equal credit hours in each year and equal distribution of credit hours through all levels within the range of 26-34.

It was suggested that non major courses could be followed as non credit courses, the results of which will not be considered for the Cumulative GPA. However this could be appeared in the transcript.

2.5 Examination and Evaluation Structure:

Combination of continuous (assignments, quizzes, Mid-semester examinations) and end-term examinations should be practiced. The minimum of 20 percent of the total marks should be taken from continuous examinations for a given course. The maximum level will depend on the type of course, and it is to be decided at faculty level as more weightage to continuous assessments need to be given for certain practical oriented courses.

2.6 Length of the Degree Programme:

Suggested the following combination under normal circumstance.

- General Degree: 3 Years + 3 Further Years
- Special Degree : 4 Years + 3 Further Years
- Special Circumstance – for both General and Special Degrees on medical or other special circumstances, which are beyond the control of a candidate, the institution should decide, on a case by case basis, taking into account the reasonableness of the request.

2.7 Grades and Grade Point Values: It is proposed that grades and grade points be uniform in all faculties and the suggested grades and grade points were:

Range of Marks	Grade	Grade Point
85-100	A+	4.00
75-84	A	3.75
70-74	A-	3.50
65-69	B+	3.25
60-64	B	3.00
55-59	B-	2.75
50-54	C+	2.50
45-49	C	2.25
40-44	C-	2.00
35-39	D+	1.75
30-34	D	1.50
25-29	D-	1.25
00-24	E	0.00

2.8 Cut-off levels of CGPA for Awarding Classes/Passes: The recommended Cumulative Grade Points Averages (CGPA) for awarding classes/passes were:

CGPA Cut-off	Class/Pass
3.75	First Class
3.25	Second Upper
2.75	Second Lower
2.00	Pass

B) Programme Level: It was suggested that the following aspects to be decided at the programme level.

2.9 Credit variation is accepted, all major subjects three credits for each course module.

2.10 For non major subjects, two credits for each course module.

2.11 For the combination of theory and practical: 30 credits hours for class room teaching, 15 for discussions, tutorial and

practical. This can vary in courses with greater practical components.

- 2.12 **Duration of the final examination** need to be decided on the number of credit hours and any deviations could be allowed considering the nature of the subject or other types of continuous assessments. Final examinations could be a theory only, practical only or a combination of both theory and practical.
- 2.13 **Pass mark of a course:** The pass mark for a course and mode of examination to be decided by the programme. However the recommended level is a minimum of 50 marks.
- 2.14 **Minimum and Maximum Credits per year:** This should be decided by the faculty considering available resources and facilities.
- 2.15 **Calculation of Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA):** The CGPA would be the weighted means giving equal or different weightage for all levels.

**5. CREDIT & QUALIFICATIONS
FRAMEWORK ON COMMERCE &
MANAGEMENT
DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN
UNIVERSITIES**

UNIVERSITIES AND RELEVANT FACULTIES PARTICIPATED

University/Campus	Members Participated
CMB	Dean + 02 Academics
SJP	Dean + 02 Academics
KLN	Dean + 03 Academics
JFN	Dean + 01 Academic
RHN	02 Academics
EUSL	Dean + 03 Academics
SEUSL	Dean + 02 Academics
RUSL	Dean + 02 Academics
SUSL	Dean + 04 Academics
OUSL	Head + 02 Academics
VC	Dean + 02 Academics
TC	Dean
UGC Standing Committee	01
Resource Persons	03
Total	40

University of Colombo

Dr. P. S. M. Gunaratne (Dean)
 Mr. W. G. Premarathne
 Dr. H. N. P. Jayasinghe

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Mr. W. Hilary E. Silva (Dean)
 Prof. H. H. D. N. P. Opatha
 Dr. N. Warnakulasooriya

University of Kelaniya

Dr. A. J. Patabendige (Dean)
 Dr. (Ms.) R. P. Chitra Ranjanie
 Mr. R. A. S. Weerasiri

University of Jaffna

Mr. K. Thevarajah (Dean)
 Ms. T. Sivaskaran

Vavuniya Campus – University of Jaffna

Mr. R. Nanthakumaran (Dean)
Ms. P. Selvarajan
Ms. J. S. Thevaruban

University of Ruhuna

Mr. A. G. Dayananda
Ms. M. W. Indrani

Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Mr. Anthony Andrew (Dean)
Mr. S. Balendran
Mr. A. Soundaralingam
Mr. T. Prabakaran

Trincomalee Campus – Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Mr. M. Karunanithy

South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Ms. F. H. Abdul Rauf (Dean)
Dr. A. Jaher
Mr. M. A. M. H. Ali

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Mr. Ranjith Wijewardena (Dean)
Mr. W. Percy Wijewardena
Mr. K. G. A. Udaya Kumara

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

Dr. D. A. I. Dayaratne (Dean)
Mr. P. J. Jayatilake
Mr. M. S. M. Aslam
Ms. L. M. C. S. Menike
Mr. D. G. Dharmaratne

Open University of Sri Lanka

Dr. R. M. J. George (Head/Dept. of Management Studies)
Prof. Sudatta Ranasinghe
Mr. A. W. Silva

UGC Memo:

Credit and Qualifications Framework - Commerce & Management Degree Programmes in Universities

1. Introduction

It is a known fact that there is a significant variation in the degree awarding criteria as well as in the structure of the degree programmes conducted by different faculties/universities within the Sri Lankan university system. Hence, there is an urgent need to formulate a common Credit and Qualification Framework (CQF) for Sri Lankan university system in order to maintain the consistency and comparability of university level qualifications, and to promote student mobility by creating more flexible arrangements for student learning.

The purposes of a common CQF could be summarized as follows.

- to maintain national and international comparability of standards, ensure international competitiveness and facilitate student and graduate mobility;
- to provide a structure that facilitates consistent use of qualification titles and levels;
- to help higher education institutions to agree on points of reference for setting and assessing standards of programmes;
- to enable employers, schools, prospective students, parents and others to understand the achievements represented by different qualifications;
- to help students to identify routes for progression, within qualifications and from one qualification to another.

2. Recommendations

A) National Level: The following standards to be accepted at the National level, i.e. common to all Commerce and Management degree programmes

2.1 **Academic Year:** should consist of two semesters, each consisting 15 weeks.

2.2 **Definition of a Credit:** A credit should define as 15 contact hours of lectures, 30 hours of Practical (basic computer) and 60 hours of dissertation. Internship including final report writing should be weighted for 3 credits equivalent to 3 months duration and up to maximum of 6 credits.

2.3 Credit Value for the Course/Degree: Following credit requirements were suggested for different course/degree.

Type	Credit Requirement	Application
Certificate Course	30 credits	Faculty Level
Diploma Course	60 credits	Faculty Level
General Degree	90 credits – minimum	National Level
Special Degree	120 credits – minimum	National Level

2.4 Examination and Evaluation Structure: combination of continuous (assignments, quizzes, Mid-semester examinations) and end-term examinations should be practiced. The following structure was suggested in conducting examinations.

Type	Common	Application
Continuous Assessment (CA)	20-40 % (Take the number of students in to account) (number of assignments based on the number of credits)	Faculty Level
Semester End Examination (SEE)	80 – 60 %	Faculty Level
Pass mark per subject	40% - CA at least 40% - SEE 40%	National Level

2.5 Length of the Degree Programme: The degree should be completed in maximum of 8 years for 4 year degree program and 6 years for 3 year degree program. Maximum no. of attempts per course should not be exceeded 3.

- 2.6 **Grades and Grade Point Values:** It is proposed that grades and grade points be uniform in all faculties and the average must be obtained in the first attempt. The suggested grades and grade points were:

Raw Marks	Grade	Grade Point value
85 or above	A+	4.00
75-84	A	3.75
70-74	A-	3.50
65-69	B+	3.25
60-64	B	3.00
55-59	B-	2.75
50-54	C+	2.50
40-49	C	2.00
30-39	D	1.50
0-29	F	1.00

- 2.7 **Cut-off levels of CGPA for Awarding Classes/Passes:** The recommended Cumulative Grade Points Averages (CGPA) for awarding classes/passes were:

CGPA Cut-off	Class/Pass
3.50	First Class
3.25	Second Upper
2.75	Second Lower
2.00	Pass

- B) **Programme Level:** It was suggested that the following aspects to be decided at the programme level.

- 2.8 **Pass mark of a course:** The pass mark for a course and mode of examination to be decided by the programme. However the suggested level is a minimum of 40 marks
- 2.9 **Minimum and Maximum Credits per year:** This should be decided by the faculty considering available resources and facilities. Minimum of 30 credits / year was agreed by all the Faculties.

2.10 Calculation of Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA):

The CGPA would be the weighted means giving equal weight for all levels.

2.11 Both year and levels were identified as appropriate nomenclatures. This is to be identified at faculty level.

6. CREDIT & QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK ON ENGINEERING DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN UNIVERSITIES

UNIVERSITIES AND RELEVANT FACULTIES PARTICIPATED

University	Members Participated
PDN	Dean + 12 Academics
MRT	Dean + 19 Academics
RHN	08 Academics
Standing Committee Members	01
Institute of Engineers in Sri Lanka	02
Resource Persons	05
Total	49

University of Peradeniya

Prof. S. B. S. Abayakoon (Dean)
 Dr. Sanath Alahakoon
 Dr. R. G. Ragel
 Dr. (Ms.) R. Swarnalatha
 Mr. W. R. M. U. Wickramasinghe
 Dr. Prasanna Boyagoda
 Dr. K. B. N. Ratnayake
 Dr. N. K. B. M. P. Nanayakara
 Dr. A. C. Ratnaweera
 Dr. M. R. Chandraratne
 Dr. K. D. W. Nandalal
 Dr. S. D. Dewasurendra
 Prof. S. B. Siyabalapitiya

University of Moratuwa

Prof. A. K. W. Jayawardena (Dean)
 Dr. G. K. Watugala
 Mr. T. Sivadeeban
 Mr. V. S. C. Weragoda
 Dr. S. L. D. Wickramasinghe
 Mr. S. P. Chaminda
 Dr. S. U. Adikary
 Prof. B. L. Tennekoon
 Dr. S. H. P. Gunawardena
 Prof. W. L. W. Fernando
 Dr. U. S. W. Gunasekera
 Prof. J. A. K. S. Jayasinghe
 Mr. S. N. Niles
 Dr. W. K. Wimalasiri

Dr. I. R. A. Weerasekera
Ms. K. C. S. Ekanayake
Dr. N. Wickramarachchi
Dr. H. S. C. Perera
Prof. H. Y. R. Perera
Dr. S. L. J. Wijeyekoon

University of Ruhuna

Dr. S. H. K. K. Gunawickrama
Dr. P. D. C. Perera
Dr. G. H. A. C. Silva
Dr. B. Sumith
Dr. N. H. Priyankara
Dr. T. M. N. Wijayaratna
Dr. K. Pirapaharan
Dr. N. I. Rajapakse

Standing Committee Members & Others

Prof. N. R. Arthanayake – Standing Committee Member
Eng. D. L. Taldena, Executive (President/IESL)
Eng. Ruzzel de Silva (Secretary/IESL)

UGC Memo:

Credit and Qualifications Framework - Engineering Degree Programmes in Universities

1. Introduction

It is a known fact that there is a significant variation in the degree awarding criteria as well as in the structure of the degree programmes conducted by different faculties/universities within the Sri Lankan university system. Hence, there is an urgent need to formulate a common Credit and Qualification Framework (CQF) for Sri Lankan university system in order to maintain the consistency and comparability of university level qualifications, and to promote student mobility by creating more flexible arrangements for student learning.

The purposes of a common CQF could be summarized as follows.

- to maintain national and international comparability of standards, ensure international competitiveness and facilitate student and graduate mobility;
- to provide a structure that facilitates consistent use of qualification titles and levels;
- to help higher education institutions to agree on points of reference for setting and assessing standards of programmes;
- to enable employers, schools, prospective students, parents and others to understand the achievements represented by different qualifications;
- to help students to identify routes for progression, within qualifications and from one qualification to another.

2. Recommendations

A) National Level: The following standards to be accepted at the National level, i.e. common to all engineering degree programmes

- 2.1 **Academic Year:** should consist of two semesters, each consisting 15 weeks.
- 2.2 **Definition of a credit:** A credit should define as 15 contact hours (1hr/week) of lectures, 45 hours (3 hrs/week) of Laboratory Practicals/Field Practicals /or any judicious combination of the above and 45 hours (3 hrs/week) Research /CPD. Fulltime works of four weeks as a block credit value for Industrial Training programmes.

- 2.3 **Semester Nomenclature:** The different years of the academic programme should be named as Semester 1-8.
- 2.4 **Credit Value for the Degree:** A four year degree programme should consist of 150 credits as the minimum and 138 as the minimum for B.Sc. Eng. Degree at Peradeniya including industrial training.
- 2.5 **Examination and Evaluation Structure:** combination of continuous (assignments, quizzes, Mid-semester examinations) and end-term examinations should be practiced. The maximum level will depend on the type of course and the minimum and maximum percentages are as listed in the table.

Type	Common
Continuous Assessment	40%-60% (L2,L3,L4)
Continuous Assessment (only CA subjects)	100%
End Semester Exam	40%-60% (L2,L3,L4)

L = Level CA= Continuous Assessment

- 2.6 **Length of the Degree Programme:** The degree should be completed in maximum of 8 years.
- 2.7 **Grades and Grade Point Values:** It is proposed that grades and grade points be uniform in all faculties and the suggested grades and grade points were:

Grade	Grade Point value
A+	4.00 - 4.20
A	4.00
A-	3.70
B+	3.30
B	3.00
B-	2.70
C+	2.30
C	2.00
C-	1.70
D+	1.30
D	1.00
I	0.00

- 2.8 **Cut-off levels of CGPA for Awarding Classes/Passes:** The recommended Cumulative Grade Points Averages (CGPA) for awarding classes/passes were:

CGPA Cut-off	Class/Pass
3.70	First Class
3.30	Second Upper
2.70	Second Lower
2.00	Pass

- B) Programme Level:** It was suggested that the following aspects to be decided at the programme level.
- 2.9 **Pass mark of a course:** The pass mark for a course and mode of examination to be decided by the programme. It was further stated that the examiners should be permitted to scale up/down the permitted range with the approval of Board of Examiners.
- 2.10 **Minimum and Maximum Credits per year:** This should be decided by the faculty considering available resources and facilities.
- 2.11 **Calculation of Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA):** The CGPA would be the weighted means giving equal weight for all levels.
- 2.12 **Cut-off levels of GPA for Classes:** All members agreed to eliminate classes and give only the CGPA value to the graduates since; there is a disparity of CGPA values of classes offered by different universities.
- 2.13 Number of attempts/subject should be decided by the programme.
- 2.14 Different Programmes are allowed to use marginal/fail grades (below C) as per their rules and guideline.

**7. CREDIT & QUALIFICATIONS
FRAMEWORK ON FOOD SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY
DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN
UNIVERSITIES**

UNIVERSITIES AND RELEVANT FACULTIES PARTICIPATED

University	Members Participated
PDN	Head + 08 Academics
SJP	03 Academics
SUSL	Head + 04 Academics
WUSL	Dean + 08 Academics
Resource Persons & Other Invitees	04
Total	30

University of Peradeniya – Faculty of Agriculture

Prof. U. Samarajeewa (Head/Dept. of Food Science & Technology)
Dr. Niranjan Rajapakse
Prof. (Ms.) D. C. K. Illeperuma
Dr. (Ms.) K. M. S. Wimalasiri
Dr. B. D. Rohitha Prasantha
Dr. T. Madhujith
Mr. P. C. Arampath
Dr. Eresha Mendis
Dr. Ananda Chandrasekera

University of Sri Jayewardenepura – Faculty of Applied Sciences

Dr. K. K. D. S. Ranaweera (Head/Dept. of Food Science & Tech.)
Mr. M. A. Jagath Wansapala
Dr. (Ms.) I. Wickramasinghe

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka – Faculty of Applied Sciences

Dr. K. B. Palipane (Head/Dept. of Food Science & Tech.)
Mr. A. L. C. J. Liyanage
Ms. P. S. Perera
Mr. M. C. N. Jayasooriya
Ms. R. S. Sabaragamuwa

Wayamba University of Sri Lanka – Faculty of LFN

Prof. J. M. P. K. Jayasinghe (Dean)
Prof. T. S. G. Fonseka
Dr. M. S. W. De Silva
Dr. K. D. R. Silva
Dr. C. V. L. Jayasinghe
Dr. D. S. Jayakody

Ms. R. L. D. Kumari Malkanthi
Ms. S. Jayatilake
Ms. P. M. H. D. Pathiraja

UGC Memo:

Credit and Qualifications Framework - Food Science and Technology Degree Programmes in Universities

1. Introduction

It is a known fact that there is a significant variation in the degree awarding criteria as well as in the structure of the degree programmes conducted by different faculties/universities within the Sri Lankan university system. Hence, there is an urgent need to formulate a common Credit and Qualification Framework (CQF) for Sri Lankan university system in order to maintain the consistency and comparability of university level qualifications, and to promote student mobility by creating more flexible arrangements for student learning.

The purposes of a common CQF could be summarized as follows.

- to maintain national and international comparability of standards, ensure international competitiveness and facilitate student and graduate mobility;
- to provide a structure that facilitates consistent use of qualification titles and levels;
- to help higher education institutions to agree on points of reference for setting and assessing standards of programmes;
- to enable employers, schools, prospective students, parents and others to understand the achievements represented by different qualifications;
- to help students to identify routes for progression, within qualifications and from one qualification to another.

2. Recommendations

A) National Level: The following standards to be accepted at the National level, i.e. common to all food science and technology degree programmes

2.1 **Academic Year:** should consist of two semesters, each consisting 15 weeks

2.2 **Definition of a credit:** A credit should define as 15 contact hours of lectures, 30 hours of Laboratory Practicals/Field Practicals / Field visits or any judicious combination of the above. 30-45 hours of field work/industrial exposure.

2.3 **Semester Nomenclature:** The different years of the academic programme should be named as level 1, level 2 level 3 and level 4 etc.

2.4 **Credit Value for the Degree:** A four year degree programme should consist of 120 credits as the minimum.

2.5 **Examination and Evaluation Structure:** combination of continuous (assignments, quizzes, mid-semester examinations) and end-term examinations should be practiced. The following structure was suggested in conducting examinations.

Type	Examination	Common
Theory	End-term - For 1 credit course	1 hr. examination paper (MCQ, Structured, Essay)
Theory	End-term - For 2 credit course	2 hrs. examination paper (MCQ, Structured, Essay)
Theory	End-term - For 3 credit course	3 hrs. examination paper (MCQ, Structured, Essay)
Theory	Mid Semester/Continues Assessment	Minimum of 25%
Theory	Final Examination	Not less than 60%
Practical	Continuous Assessment	Not more than 75%
Practical	Final Assessment	Not more than 25%

2.6 **Length of the Degree Programme:** The degree should be completed in maximum of 7 years. Maximum number of attempts per course should not be exceeded 3rd and 4th attempt could be granted on the recommendation of the Senate.

- 2.7 **Grades and Grade Point Values:** It is proposed that grades and grade points be uniform in all faculties and the suggested grades and grade points were:

Grade	Grade Point value
A+	4.00
A	4.00
A-	3.70
B+	3.30
B	3.00
B-	2.70
C+	2.30
C	2.00
C-	1.70
D+	1.30
D	1.00
F	0.00

- 2.8 **Cut-off levels of CGPA for Awarding Classes/Passes:** The recommended Cumulative Grade Points Averages (CGPA) for awarding classes/passes were:

CGPA Cut-off	Class/Pass
3.75	First Class
3.30	Second Upper
2.75	Second Lower
2.00	Pass

- B) **Programme Level:** It was suggested that the following aspects to be decided at the programme level.

- 2.9 **Pass mark of a course:** The pass mark for a course and mode of examination to be decided by the programme. However the suggested level is a minimum of 50 marks.

- 2.10 **Minimum and Maximum Credits per year:** This should be decided by the faculty considering available resources and facilities. The following was suggested.

<u>Level</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
1	30	30
2	30	35
3	30	40
4	30	40
Total	<u>120</u>	<u>145</u>

- 2.11 **Calculation of Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA):**
The CGPA would be the weighted means giving equal or different weight for all levels.
- 2.12 **Award of Certificate or Diploma:** Decided to offer a certificate for completion of 1 year of the degree and a diploma for 2 years of completion. However, considering the structure of the curricula, it was agreed not to grant 'general degree' for those who vacate the degree programme early.
- 2.13 If minimum GPA of 2.0 is not maintained by end of year 2 after completing minimum requirements, the student will not be allowed to go to year 3.

8. SUMMARY

Among eight aspects identified in CQF Workshop, more emphasis was given to minimize variations in Grades, Grade Point Values and Cut-off Levels of GPA for Awarding Classes/Passes. Following tables presents the outcome of the agreed values among different degree programmes.

Table 1: Grades and Grades Point Values for Courses

Degree Programme	Grades and Grade Point Values														
	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	I	F
Agriculture	4.00	4.00	3.70	3.30	3.00	2.70	2.30	2.00	1.70	1.30	1.00	-	-	-	0.00
Arts	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.50	2.25	2.00	1.75	1.50	1.25	0.00	-	-
Engineering	4.00 - 4.20	4.00	3.70	3.30	3.00	2.70	2.30	2.00	1.70	1.30	1.00	-	-	0.00	-
Architecture	4.20	4.00	3.70	3.30	3.00	2.70	2.30	2.00	1.50	-	1.0	-	-	0.00	0.00
Food Science & Technology	4.00	4.00	3.70	3.30	3.00	2.70	2.30	2.00	1.70	1.30	1.00	-	-	-	0.00
Commerce & Mgt.	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.50	2.00	-	-	1.50	-	-	-	1.00

Table 2: Cut-off levels of GPA for Awarding Classes/Pass

Degree Programme	CGPA/Average for Awarding Classes/Pass			
	First	Second Upper	Second Lower	Pass
Agriculture	3.75	3.30	2.75	2.00
Arts	3.75	3.25	2.75	2.00
Engineering	3.70	3.30	2.70	2.00
Architecture	3.70	3.30	2.70	2.00
Food Science & Technology	3.75	3.30	2.75	2.00
Commerce & Management	3.50	3.25	2.75	2.00

9. ANNEXES

Annex 1 – Typical Agenda

**CREDIT AND QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK
WORKSHOP ON IMPROVING STRUCTURE OF
DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN UNIVERSITIES**

8.30 am	Registration
9.00 am	Welcome Address Prof. Colin N. Peiris/QA Specialist
9.10 am	Opening Remarks/ Chairman, Standing Committee
9.20 am	Address by the Chairman/UGC Prof. Gamini Samaranayake
9.30 am	New Trends in Higher Education Prof. L.L. Ratnayake/Project Director, IRQUE
10.00 am	Importance of Credit & Qualification Framework in Higher Education - Dr. J. L. Ratnasekera/IRQUE Project
10.30 am	Tea
10.45 am	Present Status of Structure of Degree Programmes in Universities - Prof. Colin N. Peiris
11.15 am	Salient Features of theDegree Programme All Deans of relevant Faculties (10 minutes each)
12.30 pm	Group Work (Participants will be divided in to 4 groups to discuss issues of the Degree Structure)
1.30 pm	Lunch
2.15 pm	Group Presentations and Discussion (15 minutes each)
3.30 pm	Closing Remarks

Annex 2 – Details of Workshops Conducted

Degree Programme	Date	Venue
Agriculture Related	24.03.07	Hotel Hilltop, Kandy
Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences	16.06.07	Hotel Hilltop, Kandy
Engineering	26.07.07	Hotel Janaki, Colombo
Architecture	17.08.07	Hotel Janaki, Colombo
Food Science & Technology	24.08.07	Hotel Janaki, Colombo
Commerce and Management	16.10.07	Hotel Janaki, Colombo