



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF CEARÁ
OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OFFICIAL LETTER No. 4/2021/PROINTER/REITORIA

Fortaleza, 10 February 2021.

To whom it may concern,

Below are clarifications about the Federal University of Ceará's credit and grading system for undergraduate studies, as well as other relevant information.

Degree Types

There are two main types of undergraduate (first-level) degrees in Brazilian higher education:

Bacharelados (Bachelor's Degrees) are programs which enable graduates for broad-ranging work and research in a certain field of knowledge such as medicine, social science, advertising, engineering, dentistry, and many others.

Licenciaturas (Licentiate Degrees) are education-oriented programs with an emphasis on enabling individuals for work as primary and/or secondary school teachers in a given subject area (science, mathematics, physics, languages, etc.).

Additionally, UFC also offers shorter, professionally oriented programs known as *Cursos Tecnólogos* (Technologist Degrees), which provide specialized training for swift entry into the job market (e.g.: Information Technology, Industrial Processes, Tourism, and others).

Upon earning an undergraduate degree, students are eligible for entry into graduate education (also known as postgraduate education).

In Brazil, *stricto sensu* (Latin for "in the narrow sense") is a designation used to refer to graduate studies encompassing master's and doctoral programs, as opposed to *lato sensu* degrees (Latin for "in the broad sense"), which are shorter, less complex graduate-level programs commonly referred to as *especializações* (specialization programs).

Credit

Contact hours are the primary device for assessing the fulfillment of credit requirements in Brazilian universities. At UFC, one credit comprises 16 contact hours, each of which in turn corresponds to 50 minutes of classroom instruction or activities deemed equivalent thereto.

Grading

In tandem with most higher learning institutions in Brazil, the University's grading policy addresses undergraduate performance on a per-course basis.

Each course is graded on a scale of 0.0 to 10.0, with a minimum final average grade of 7.0 being indicative of satisfactory work.

If at the end of the term a student has not earned the minimum passing average grade of 7.0 but managed to achieve an average grade equal to or higher than 4.0, he/she is eligible for a makeup examination after which a new minimum average grade of 5.0 shall be considered sufficient for completion of the course.

A final average grade lower than 4.0 is in all respects equivalent to definitively failing the said course.

In the case of a failure for excessive absences, the student will receive a final average grade of 0.0.

Attendance

All undergraduate students are expected to attend a satisfactory number of sessions per course: no less than 75% of all in-person classes or activities deemed equivalent thereto.

For activities such as final undergraduate projects or theses, supervised internships, clinical clerkships and other forms of training for real-life work situations, students must maintain an attendance record of at least 90% of the planned workload.

In the case of a failure for excessive absences, the student will receive a final average grade of 0.0.

Failing the same course due to excessive absences more than once, or four course failures within the overall program owing to insufficient attendance, may cause the student to forfeit his/her enrollment at UFC for the duration of the following semester.

Reinstatement is feasible by way of signing a letter of intent provided by the coordinating office of the student's program. Signing this letter is therefore tantamount to acknowledging that one more failure for insufficient attendance will lead to the definitive termination of the student's enrollment at UFC.

Academic Performance Index

A student's Academic Performance Index (Índice de Rendimento Acadêmico – IRA) is calculated upon the completion of each term.

It factors in the final course grades, each course's contact hour total, the academic term in which the course was completed vis-à-vis the term in which it is expected to be taken, and the (non-)occurrence of interruptions (leaves of absence and/or full program withdrawals).

Academic efficacy is documented by means of the following indicators:

- a) the individual IRA (indicative of and calculated based on a given student's performance) and;
- b) the general IRA (an index that is calculated within the bounds of a given undergraduate program, taking into account all the performances of every student in that program).

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Sincerely,

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Vice Provost for International Affairs and Institutional Development
PRINTER – UFC



Documento assinado eletronicamente por **AUGUSTO TEIXEIRA DE ALBUQUERQUE**, Pró-Reitor de Relações Internacionais, em 10/02/2021, às 19:17, conforme horário oficial de Brasília, com fundamento no art. 6º, § 1º, do [Decreto nº 8.539, de 8 de outubro de 2015](#).



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